

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIX.]

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MARRIAGE.

At the Peak Church, Hongkong, on 23rd April, by the Rev. Mr. F. T. Johnson, WILLIAM, eldest son of John Little Benson, Esq., of Glen, Bollin Ringway, Cheshire, to GLADYS MAY (Queenie), eldest daughter of Alfred Whittles, Esq., Corner-syde, Ha e, Cheshire.

DEATH.

On the 28th instant, at the Government Civil Hospital, BENJAMIN ALFRED COOMBS. Age 25 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The English Mail of the 2nd April, and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 24th March, and for despatch overland on the 31st March arrived per s.s. *Delta*, on Wednesday 28th ultimo.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The British squadron arrived at Yokohama on the April 29.

The Shanghai A. D. C. were playing "The Yeomen of the Guard" 1st week.

The *Foochow Echo* understands that Mr. E. Gilchrist, Postal Commissioner at that port, will shortly be leaving to take up the position of Commissioner of Customs at Swatow.

Many residents of Foochow were awakened at about 4 a.m. on Thursday the 15th inst. by a severe earthquake shock.

It is reported that Mr. C. W. Kinder, the general manager of the Imperial Chinese Railways, will be employed in London as Adviser on Loans at a salary of £1,000 per annum.—*The Times*.

The Directors of the Tokio Marine Insurance Co., Ltd (of which the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are the Hongkong Agents) recommend the payment of 5 yen per share, equal to 40 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

A Japanese naval training squadron, consisting of the cruisers *Aso* (formerly the *Bayan*) and *Soyo* (formerly the *Varing*), with a number of naval cadets on board will visit Esquimalt, Vancouver, from May 12 to May 22.

We regret to learn that Mr. Burkhill, who rode for Mr. Buxey's stable at the last Race Meeting in Hongkong, and was to have ridden for the same stable at the Shanghai races next week, has had a fall and broken his collar bone.

A Honolulu telegram to the Manila papers states that an amazing system of graft has just been unearthed in the local legislative assembly. The disclosures affect a large circle of the members of the assembly and assume the proportions of a scandal.

Mr. von Buri, Consul-General for Germany at Shanghai, and Mrs. von Buri have left on eight months' furlough, taking the Siberian route home. Mr. Max Muller will be in charge of the German Consulate until Mr. von Buri's return. Mr. A. Monaco, who some time ago left Shanghai for Peking to take charge of the Italian Legation in the absence, on furlough, of the Minister has once more resumed his duties as Italian Consul-General at Shanghai, while Mr. R. Faraone of the Societa Coloniale Italiana, who acted as Consul in Mr. Monaco's absence has along with Mrs. Faraone left for home.

Residents of Shanghai, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, sincerely regret to hear that Mr. Charles Denby, Consul-General for the United States, received a telegram recently from Washington, the effect of which is to recall Mr. Denby from his present post. The gist of the message is that without consideration of or examination into the recommitment that was levelled at Mr. Denby during the previous administration, it has been decided to ask him to vacate his post. The message concludes with a warm expression of thanks for the Consul-General's long and effective service. Mr. Denby's resignation will take effect from June 1. According to his present plans he intends to return Washington.

At a dinner given to H. E. Sir John Anderson by the Straits Settlements Association, in London on the 21st inst., Sir John, in responding to the toast of his health, stated that the changes in the currency was one of the causes of the depression in Singapore. It would however, prove good in the long run. They must cultivate the existing supply of labour. The Home Government did not intend driving the Straits to extremes on the opium question, and they would undoubtedly be able to meet the wishes of the home Government without imperilling the finances of the Straits. It was anticipated that the developments of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty would justify the expenditure at Singapore on the docks.

Surveyor Herren of the Bureau of Lands Philippine Islands, who disappeared on the 16th instant, has been found brutally murdered at Mayjayjay, on the banks of the Dalitwan river, and three natives who accompanied him on the day he was first missed have been arrested and charged with having committed the deed.

Dr. Justo Lukban, delegate for northern Manila in the Philippines Assembly, has performed his first official act by asking for complete revolution of the form of government in the islands. He asks for the establishment of a government that shall have the form of an executive cabinet with the Governor General as president, supported by eleven secretaries. It is, in the words of its author, based on the scheme of government in Canada "because the Philippines and Canada enjoy the same political conditions in respect to their sovereign governments." In introducing his scheme of government Sr. Lukban announces that he does so with the desire of giving the Filipino people government more suitable to the times and conditions.

Mr. H. W. Kilby of the International Bank who has been for several years stationed at Yokohama has been transferred to Hongkong and is due here in a few days. The *Japan Gazette* referring to the transfer says:—Mr. Kilby has for several years been actively identified with several public organisations in Yokohama. For two years he commanded the local Company of the Boys' Brigade after the departure from the port of Mr. L. D. Tebb. Mr. Kilby has for some years taken an active part in cricket, being one of the most energetic and enthusiastic members of the Y. C. & A. C., and only a month ago was elected to the Committee as captain of cricket for the ensuing year. At the present time he holds the post of Honorary Treasurer of the Yokohama and Tokyo branch of the Royal Society of St. George. One of Yokohama's "boys" Mr. Kilby has been closely identified with several public organisations of the port during the past few years, and on his departure for Hongkong will carry with him the hearty good wishes of many friends for future success in his professional career.

The rise in Langkats which took place last Monday caused considerable sensation on the Stock Exchange at Shanghai and generally throughout the community, the *Mercury* says. They jumped from Tls 920 cash on Saturday the 18th inst to Tls 110. All manner of rumours gained currency regarding the reason for the extraordinary advance, and without expressing any views as to their accuracy our contemporary mentions that wildest of the lot is that diamonds have been discovered on the Langkat estate, but the one which seems to have gained greatest currency is that the last find of oil has turned out much better than was anticipated. Another rumour is that the Standard Oil Co. is making negotiations for the purchase of the company. Apart from these stories the belief is general that the jump is a consequence of speculation on Exchange. In Messrs. Erich Georg and Co.'s share report published on Saturday it is mentioned that the directors of the Langkat Company state that, according to a telegram received from Langkat, hole No. 94, on the Darat fields has been opened up and proves to be an exceptionally productive well. "Further information regarding this matter will be issued to shareholders by circular as soon as possible."

THE DECENTRALISATION OF EASTERN SHIPPING.

(Daily Press, 26th April.)

In the comprehensive review of events of the past year affecting the commerce and shipping of Hongkong presented in the speech which the Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT, as President of the Chamber of Commerce delivered at the annual meeting of members on Friday, a reference was made to the tendency shown in recent years for shipping to "decentralise." Whereas formerly, Mr. HEWETT said, the whole of the Far Eastern trade centred in Hongkong, three ports in China, and three in Japan, whence coasting steamers fed the ocean liners with export cargo, and distributed at smaller ports along the Coast the cargoes brought out by the ocean carriers of freight, there is now a very noticeable readiness on the part of shipowners to send their ocean steamers to other ports; and steamers are now being loaded direct for Europe and America at ports whose names were hardly known to the outside world a few years ago, or which then did not exist. This decentralisation, as Mr. HEWETT said, must increase as these other ports afford increased facilities by the development of railway connections with the interior, and other improvements calculated to attract shipping. "This movement," added the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, "cannot but be encouraged if the Government of Hongkong persists in what I cannot but describe as a suicidal policy of increasing the taxes on shipping when they should rather be doing all in their power to attract shipping to the port, and not drive it away."

The tendency on which Mr. HEWETT commented is one which we have noted for some time past, but when we have turned to the shipping statistics of the port we have failed to find the support we expected for the belief that Hongkong must be suffering from this new movement. Yet it cannot be denied that an immense amount of cargo which was formerly transhipped at Hongkong, requiring for longer or shorter periods large godown accommodation, and affording employment to hundreds of persons, now passes by our doors. Rice and tea may be mentioned as concrete instances. According to the latest published report of the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, more than one half the exports recorded in 1907 passed through the port without breaking bulk. But when we consult the returns with a view to learning what effect this decentralising tendency has had upon the tonnage and the number of ships entering and clearing at Hongkong, what do we find? We find the Harbour Master saying that the shipping statistics for 1907 (the latest published) form a record for Hongkong and exceed those of any port in the world! As compared with the returns of the previous year, ocean vessels under the British flag showed an increase of 59 ships of 26,698 tons, while foreign ocean vessels showed an increase of 334 ships of 627,380 tons, wholly due to the Japanese firms increasing their carrying trade. Under this flag an increase of 455 ships of 976,450 tons is found, with a general falling off under other flags.

While, however, the net result, showing as it does that Hongkong continued down to the end of 1907 at least, to maintain its pre-eminence among the seaports of the world, in spite of the tendency of shipping to decentralise, it affords no excuse for ignoring Mr. HEWETT's warning to the Government against persisting in a policy of taxing shipping for improvements which benefit the whole business community.

What we have to bear in mind is that were it not for this tendency to decentralise, the shipping statistics of Hongkong would be much larger than they actually are, and when there is any question of increasing the charges on the vessels frequenting the port it is well that the Government should be forcibly reminded of this increasing tendency to distribute shipping favours, as well as of the fact that the prosperity of the Colony and the maintenance of its reputation and position as the great distributing centre for South China, is almost wholly dependent on the Colony's ability to attract shipping. By-and-bye when the New Territory has actually become the great industrial centre that we hope it may become, and when we have the railway bringing to our port heavy freights from the interior of China, the future of the port will be more securely established, but meanwhile—that is to say, for many years yet to come—its prosperity will be menaced by the keen competition in the shipping world which is producing the changes to which Mr. HEWETT very appositely alluded.

CHINA'S CURRENCY.

(Daily Press, April 27th.)

Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, the Chairman, Mr. W. D. LITTLE, made the following remarks on the present condition of the Currency and the over-issue of notes and subsidiary coinage, which amply bear out our own remarks on the extremely dangerous position into which, under pretence of Reform, the whole subject has been permitted to drift:

I may perhaps be permitted to refer briefly to Currency reform; this deeply interesting question has had your Committee's earnest attention and continues to do so. The Chinese Government would appear desirous to move in the matter, but seem unable to command the provincial authorities. Coins are minted without uniform system, and notes issued without adequate protection, or any effective control from the central Power. Meanwhile a continual flow of paper reforms are published in the *Peking Gazette*. Mr. A. M. Marshall visited the capital last year, and recently Mr. F. Anderson, both members of our Committee. To these gentlemen our thanks are due for placing our views as to the seriousness of the situation before the Diplomatic Body. I have received from Mr. Anderson a copy of a letter dated the 9th. instant, which he addressed to the Doyen. It is as follows: "It will be seen from the figures quoted that the depreciation of copper 10-cash pieces is becoming more serious almost every month. When these coins were first issued they circulated at par, though intrinsically worth only about 50 per cent. of their face value. Excessive supplies brought depreciation, and of late the profit on minting has disappeared. Debased coins of a lower value are now being issued, which circulate at a steadily increasing discount. The continuous depreciation of the money of the masses adversely affects many millions of people throughout the Empire. The Chamber has also requested me to bring the question of Bank-note issues before Your Excellency. We are aware that in answer to your former representations on the subject, the Chinese Government has intimated that the subject is under consideration. The Chamber would, however, respectfully point out that the delay in taking effective measures to deal with this important question must inevitably increase the difficulties and dangers of the financial situation. We fear that unless sound measures are taken to regulate the issue, both of bank-notes and copper-cash, a financial crisis if not a panic will be brought about, the consequences of which will be far-reaching and not improbably disastrous. The Chamber therefore begs of Your Excellency to urge upon the highest Authorities of the Empire the importance of taking effective steps to deal with those questions with as little delay as possible;

and that as a temporary measure, the further issues of bank-notes and copper cash should be immediately suspended."

Now, not the least curious of this very curious tale remains behind. For reasons of its own Peking has been rather over-anxious to throw the entire blame of the wholesale debauchery of the currency back on the Provinces; in its affected purity of intention—which for a considerable time did, there is no doubt, succeed in bamboozling the financial world—it had been, it assured the Representatives of the Powers at Peking, engaged in the work of reforming the Currency, and had given its instructions accordingly to the provincial authorities; but those wicked Provincials had made the whole affair a matter of private gain, and had disarranged its best endeavours for the financial regeneration of the Empire! As a field for exploitation the financial world had, in fact, not yet given up China; there were scores of possibilities yet available for gulling an innocent public, and it was not convenient that too much light should be thrown on the dealings of the late EMPRESS DOWAGER and her worthy minion the "false" Eunuch TI LIENYING. The new REGENT it was who first raised a corner of the veil. Finding an impoverished Exchequer, and a deceased ex-REGENT to be buried, the happy thought struck him to make the deceased's estate bear the burden. The new EMPRESS DOWAGER, within whose Department came the funereal rites to her late husband, and who bears no goodwill towards the memory of the woman whom she looks upon as the murderer of her lord, was not backward in taking the hint; and an investigation into the secret hoard of the late amiable DOWAGER has been the result, and throws a lurid light on the methods of the late Regency. At the beginning of his little struggle with Japan, it may be remembered, the TSAR of Russia invited certain intimate friends to have a glance within his own private treasury, and the friend related with evident mouth-watering the numberless shelves, all piled with boxes said to be full of the yellow metal, which were disclosed to his view. Not much less than the alleged, but uncounted store of the TSARS, has been found the accumulated squeezings of the late DOWAGER, accumulated be it remembered during a period of more than ordinarily advertised poverty. The result in round numbers is reckoned at nineteen million taels of gold, and nine hundred and ninety million taels of silver,—which turned into sterling at the exchange of the day would be the equivalent of some two hundred and sixteen million pounds sterling! or within twenty millions of one-third of the accumulated national debt of Great Britain. Two hundred and sixteen millions sterling; and withal not enough to pay her own funeral expenses! Such was the financial position of the Chinese Empire as represented by the friends and admirers of the late Regency.

Now, of course, speculations on such a magnificent scale would have been impossible without confederates, and the late Dowager's share of the swag only represents one, though possibly the largest, share in the plundering that has been keeping the Imperial finances of China on the grindstone for the last forty years. People whose memories are long enough will remember how on the outbreak of the Japan war, some fifteen years ago, the fleet was provided through the acquisitive instincts of the DOWAGER and her then henchman LI HUNG CHANG with shells loaded with coaldust, and paper crews to fire them. Naturally with the loss of Formosa, and practically of Shengking and Manchuria, that game came

to an end, but reform of the Currency came to supply the waning grist. The new scheme indicated no want of financial talent;—indeed could not have presented itself to anyone except one thoroughly skilled in the art. The Provinces were to be given the hint of how much profit they could make out of the issue of a "reformed" cash currency; everyone knew how defective was the old, and how short was the actual stock in hand. If they got out machinery and turned out to a uniform pattern new copper pieces, they could make a profit of fifty per cent, and for a consideration Peking was prepared to grant the necessary authorisation; this was important, as at the same time profit could be made, and the Foreign Powers who were pressing for improved currency could be hoodwinked.

The scheme succeeded beyond the most sanguine hopes of its proposers; so well indeed that the Dowager began to think that with all her cleverness, she had let the provinces in for quite too good a thing. Some limits had been spoken of in the first instance, these might be good enough for the Provinces; but the Dowager was not going to hamper herself, so provided that the extra money came in quick no questions would be asked. Of course, in China there is no account taken of these things, and care is taken to obliterate all traces; but of one thing there is no doubt, and that is that the debased cash coinage has formed no inconsiderable portion of the little hoard of the 216 millions—how much neither, we nor anyone else will ever know. But if the lion's share of the swag went to the Dowager, there is as little doubt that a sufficient share to satisfy the most exacting went to the confederates in the game. Doubtless with her peculiar talent of acquisitiveness much of this went back as hushmoney to the Dowager herself; but there must have been much shroffage on the way, and though a few have been made to discharge, there are yet a few millions to be had in certain slums in or about the capital which it would be quite feasible to enquire about. And herein lies the great obstacle in the path of any possible reform. Everyone who has touched the filthy lucre has de facto a personal interest in concealing the traces of the crime, and finds himself ranged on the side of obstruction. Even the representatives of the Powers who had it in their power to see these things, but preferred in the face of their own particular schemes to keep their eyes closed, would under the new conditions not altogether care to be reminded of their shortcomings; so that altogether Peking is wrapped up in a conspiracy of silence. And if the case be so with the debased coinage which has already descended to the ateliers of the professional coiner, how much more so may it be expected to be with regard to the banks who have been more recently flooding the market with their notes? Peking has already had time to have these under "discussion," and there is little reason to doubt with the usual result. The banks have already had time to follow the immemorial custom of greasing the hand that has had the power to hinder them; the rest has followed the usual routine of human nature, and Chinese human nature in particular, and Peking has anticipated its share of the hoped-for plunder, and stands committed in advance.

Chambers of Commerce and Bank Directors may beat out their brains against the iron bars of the Inevitable, but the foundations of corruption in China are too deeply laid, and the superedifice too strongly built for it to be upset for many a generation yet—till in effect a people by no means devoid of astuteness has come to learn the

practical lesson that national dishonesty, any more than personal dishonour, does not pay.

BRITISH NAVAL POLICY IN THE PACIFIC.

(Daily Press, April 28th.)

The visit of a small Japanese squadron to Esquimaux next month suggests a few thoughts of considerable interest at the present time when throughout the British Empire a resolute intention has been shown to maintain our naval supremacy. Probably the worst considered part of Admiral Sir JOHN FISHER's much belauded scheme for the concentration of the fighting strength of the British Navy was the abolition as a naval base of the Island of Vancouver, and the dismantling of Esquimaux. It is quite true that Esquimaux had only accidentally come to be a naval port. In the old days of the Hudson's Bay Company it had served as an admirable place of shelter for the trading schooners of the company, but proved itself utterly unsuited as a naval base when more than two cruisers had to be berthed. Vancouver, however, possesses absolutely some of the finest harbours in the world, three or four of which are suitable for naval stations of the first-class, while at back, in addition to its being at any time in a position to be reinforced from home through Canada, which in itself is a vast recruiting ground, it has inexhaustible stocks of coal, as well as iron, which though not at the moment worked, are certain in the immediate future to be of vast economical importance. The ruling strategic idea in the concentration scheme may be stated in a few sentences. Germany, it was held, was the only naval Power with whom there was any possibility of coming in hostile conflict. America and we have too many interests in common to raise any presumption that she will ever be found opposed to us on sea. France too, for like reasons is friendly. Japan is bound in self-interest to avoid coming into conflict with the naval power of Great Britain. Germany has too many irons in the fire in Europe to care to greatly increase her Pacific fleet, which she could not do without withdrawing from the strength in Europe, which from prudential motives she is not likely to do. We can therefore without risk to our prestige reduce to a minimum our Pacific fleet, retaining only enough to be able at short notice to "show the flag" in case of any local disturbance; and this will give us force enough at home, without incurring additional expense to "mask" any forward movements on the part of Germany. Unfortunately at the moment came into office the Cabinet at the head of which was Sir H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN, himself the acknowledged chief of the "Little Englander" movement. Under false pretences of economy, the party were seeking to launch a huge scheme of socialistic extravagance, the only plausible means of meeting which was the reduction to inefficiency of both army and navy; and Sir JOHN FISHER's scheme which seemed to afford a plausible excuse was eagerly welcomed by the new Cabinet. The idea of having her fleet masked was not very agreeable to Germany, and the dissatisfaction was increased when it seemed to the German mind evident that the policy of bottling up the German fleet in the North Sea was emphasised by the building of the Dreadnought. Apparently, as they thought, the Cabinet, having bottled up Germany in Home waters, could now proceed with its policy of cheese-paring, and great was the rejoicing amongst the Little-Englanders. But the game turned out a more dangerous

one than they anticipated, for Germany, conceiving rightly or wrongly that the concentration of the British Fleet in the North Sea was intended as a challenge commenced herself building Dreadnoughts; the fat was in the fire; the economising of the Navy, and the scheme for masking Germany's war fleet by concentrating our own in the North Sea, had seemed to many in Germany a deliberate attempt to confine her to European waters; and as such was to be counteracted at any sacrifice. Now Germany, any time within the last fifteen or twenty years, has had a desire for Oriental expansion, and this longing has been sedulously encouraged by the KAISER. The retirement from Vancouver, and the reduction of the China squadron to a few cruisers were very grateful as an indication of the cheese-paring policy to which Germany conceived Great Britain as a nation was now committed, and it was plain that at the rate at which the British Navy was dawdling over its ship-building programme Germany could pick it up by the beginning of 1912. The British nation has been slow to recognise the extreme gravity of the situation which has thus developed and the Government, which should have been the first to perceive the drift of it all, has been the last. What the so-called economies effected in the naval administration during the last four or five years are likely to cost the Empire in the next five years it is not possible to estimate: we only know that the nation, in order to maintain its naval supremacy, on which its existence depends, must go on spending enormous sums on the building of new ships for some years to come.

THE COUP D'ETAT IN TURKEY.

(Daily Press, April 29th.)

ABDUL HAMID II who for thirty-three years has reigned as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire has been deposed by decree of Parliament, and his brother, MEHOMMED RESCHAD EFFENDI, who was Heir Presumptive to the Throne, has been proclaimed Sultan in his stead. ABDUL HAMID is a fugitive. These are the results of the brief revolt which the telegrams from Europe have been reporting during the past few days. But what are the causes of these developments? On this point the telegrams afford scant information. A few months ago when the patriarchal KAIMIL PASHA was dismissed from the post of Grand Vizier, because he was seeking to undermine the influence of the Committee of Union and Progress, which had become the supreme but unofficial junta of the Empire, he declared that in dismissing him from the Cabinet his Young Turk colleagues, the Ministers of War and Marine, he had acted just in time to prevent a coup d'etat which would have dethroned the Sultan and replaced him by Prince YUSSUF IZZEDDIN. This charge was repudiated by the Young Turks but in such terms as made it clear that "the Padishah reigned on sufferance and would cease to reign on the standing that the Shadow of God should again claim anything more than the shadow of sovereignty." The Young Turks Committee of Union and Progress, as we have said, and as the events of the past week have proved, have in their hands the power of control. KAIMIL admitted as much after his downfall. KAIMIL is a veteran of eighty-four years, the last survivor of the old school, and though he is reputed to be conscientious and wary in international negotiations, he was imperious and vehement in character and could not reconcile himself to the tutelage of the Committee of Union and Progress. The Committee, on the other hand, regarded

the old Grand Vizier as an obstinate obstructive, steeped in many of the traditions of the despotic régime, and too considerate of the interests and feelings of the Sultan. But any open attack upon him was regarded at first as fraught with injury to the prestige of the whole constitutional movement, for KAIMIL was a Constitutionalist, though not in sympathy with the methods advocated by the Committee of Union and Progress. He showed himself in sympathy with the rival organisation, the Liberal Union, of which Prince SABAH EDDIN is the head. Its distinctive policy was the decentralisation of government—a sort of "Home Rule-all-round" policy, and the Liberal Union became the nucleus of a loose coalition of non-Turkish elements. From the time that KAIMIL identified himself with this movement the Young Turks resolved upon his downfall. The vote against him in the Turkish Parliament was carried by 198 votes to 8. How has KAIMIL occupied his enforced leisure? We may suppose that his whole time has been devoted to efforts aiming at the destruction of the power acquired in the land by the Committee of Union and Progress, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that he was favoured in this with the active support and assistance of ABDUL HAMID, the Sultan, whom the revolution which has taken place in his territory has left unreformed. A writer in one of the recent magazines describes the incredible depth of intrigue which has been prevailing at the Yildiz Kiosk. It is mentioned that the Imperial body-guard was composed of the three Mohammedan races—Albanians, Kurds, and Arabs—who abhor each other with a ferocious hatred, and therefore might be trusted never to conspire against their common master. When officials quarrelled, it was the Sultan's practice to reward them, and secure each as a watch against the other. So well was this known that occasionally courtiers pretended to quarrel furiously, so as to get a larger share of the Imperial bounty. His protestations of sympathy with the new movement were belied by his actions. On his estates he had forbidden the words "country," "nation," "people," "liberty," "revolution." When disaffected subjects fled to foreign parts, there to say all manner of evil against him, the astute old fox lured them back with offers of office and high salary—not to destroy them, but to keep his word and keep them—dumb, muzzled, watched! Knowing all this the Young Turks must have recognised in an arch intriguer of ABDUL HAMID's type a formidable obstacle to the success of the Reformation to which they have set their hands. RESCHAD, the new Sultan, has not figured at all in the stirring movements of the past twelve months, and his selection by the Parliament to succeed the discredited ABDUL is therefore a surprise. RESCHAD is sixty-five years of age, two years younger than the deposed Sultan, and if he is not an active supporter of the Young Turks' political ambitions, we may be quite sure that those who have set him upon the Throne are thoroughly assured of freedom from interference in their constitutional efforts to accomplish the high ideals they have set before them.

The report of the Union Church, Hongkong, just issued to seat-holders, is not particularly satisfactory, as it shows that for several years the expenditure has exceeded the income and there is a debit on the working account of \$65.60. The income last year from seat rents, weekly offerings and hall rent was \$1,589.72 less than it was four years ago.

SOUTH AFRICAN FEDERATION.

(Daily Press, April 30th.)

After all that has been written and uttered both in South Africa and in England with respect to the proposed union of the different Colonies in the former country, it is extremely difficult to form an idea of the merits of the proposed measure. The change seems to have been hailed by persons of the most various views as the one thing that is wanted to settle all the difficulties with regard to South Africa and to ensure prosperity to the Dominion or Commonwealth that it is proposed to create. Under such circumstances it may seem almost presumptuous to hesitate to accept the opinion which has been so generally formed; but there are certain facts connected with the conclusion arrived at which are worth considering in order to estimate how far it may be correct. In the first place it is noticeable that the feeling in favour of union is largely of a very general character—and the political "union" which is now contemplated is mixed up in the minds of a very large number of people—among them many of high authority and intelligence—with a union of sympathy between the English and Dutch inhabitants, which is a different matter and one which may or may not be secured by the unification which is proposed. To a certain extent the co-operation of the two races in the important preliminary conferences that have taken place is an evidence that some *rapprochement* is being made in this direction, and naturally a great deal has been said in the Press and upon the platform on this aspect of the subject. But it will be a grave mistake to over-estimate this. Good natured John Bull, as WASHINGTON IRVING observed long ago, is always ready to shake hands with former opponents, who show the least desire to let bygones be bygones; and something of this spirit has entered into the estimate formed in many directions of the effort at unification that has been made with, as it is generally explained, the object of making South Africa one united and prosperous nation. But too much may be expected from mere political union of different colonies in this respect, and it would be going somewhat far to believe that the racial differences which have caused so much trouble in South Africa will be at once and for ever at an end, because the different Colonies are placed under one, instead of separate Governments. The decline of the feeling of separate nationality must be a matter of time; and if the proposed union is effected, this will have to be worked out by the same influences that have been found effective in Canada and other places. The question, therefore, is really one of practical utility in a commercial and administrative direction. The commercial advantages are of course manifest, as there has no doubt been too much opposition in regard to railways and like matters, and the feeling is general that a measure which would put an end to undue competition is to be hailed as an undoubted advantage. This consideration has largely influenced the supporters of the proposed change. Both Natal and the Cape have had to struggle against financial difficulties which there is a prospect of the Union putting an end to, and they have naturally had a strong influence upon the views in those Colonies—and probably on the whole they are justified in looking upon the subject in that light, though it is obvious it has other important bearings which ought also to be carefully considered. There can, of course, be no question that the effect of a Union as proposed would be very largely to increase the

influence of the Transvaal as compared with the other three colonies, that is the Orange River Colony, the Cape and Natal,—and it must also have the effect of rather increasing than diminishing Dutch influence, which predominates in the Orange River Colony. At the same time it is to be borne in mind that the Transvaal, as it at present exists, is not likely to be much more Dutch than the Cape Colony is at the present time, where the Dutch element is in the ascendancy politically and, so far as can be judged, is likely so to continue. In Natal, where the government has been much more in the hands of the English, the change might be of more importance, so that it is not surprising that there are signs of opposition from that quarter—and this will have to be carefully dealt with. It is hoped that the difficulty may be met by the number of votes which it is proposed to give to Natal in the Central Parliament, and if this is secured the objections may be overcome, as there is no doubt that in a commercial and financial point of view, the Union proposed would greatly benefit that Colony.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

No lack of entertainment in the colony. The Ward Comedy Company have been with us a fortnight and the interval which elapses between their departure and the arrival of the Bandmann company is filled with the Circus to say nothing of the Philharmonic Concert on Tuesday.

The Hongkong "kid" is nothing if not candid. I am told that one of them, a boy of eight, was taken to see "The New Clown" last Saturday and on returning home confided to his mother the information "Miss Palotta is prettier than you, mother, I should say." Collapse of mother.

The fact that St. George's day passed unnoticed in Hongkong as well as other places within the Empire would indicate that Englishmen have not the same love of country as the men of the other nations in the Kingdom. St. Patrick's Day is dear to every Irishman, and its anniversary is never overlooked. A similar regard is shown by Welshmen for the memory of Dewi Sant, and of course we all know the love of the Scot for St. Andrew. By the way has it ever occurred to you how popular St. Andrew is? He is claimed as a patron saint by both Scotland and Russia.

We who have fumed and fretted because our coolie with a chit to deliver took over an hour to get from Des Vœux Road to the vicinity of the Clock Tower may be pardoned for having overlooked the fact that the Chinese are great pedestrians, but the statement is true nevertheless. We have only to think how difficult it is to keep pace with chair coolies carrying a fare, and if we should be in conversation with the fare we know the necessity for telling the bearer, to "Mo kum fai" (that is somewhere near the spelling). Again if you notice the Chinese travelling on the country roads they seem to be moving at a slow pace, but test it and you will realise that the man who is walking without any apparent effort is covering the ground at a greater rate than you can do with your four or five-mile-an-hour stride. There is no doubt about it, the Chinaman's power of endurance and his pedestrian ability are greater than is generally suspected.

The solitary drinker, the Jimmy Woods of Australia, is not very common in Hongkong, though an occasional man is seen going to the bar of the club or the hotel for his "single breaster." So great is the aversion to drinking alone in Hongkong that men are known to suffer thirst because they cannot find a companion rather than risk the opprobrium of being thought mean. It may be that the gregarious instinct which makes Britishers desire to imbibe together is perhaps responsible for the many indiscretions which follow "lifting the glass." Certainly it means chits for a larger amount than is altogether desirable or expedient.

If we follow the example of the Californian Assembly all this will be changed. A Sacramento message states that the Assembly has passed a bill prohibiting any person from treating another to beer, whiskey, wine or intoxicating liquor of any kind whatever. The measure was introduced in the Assembly as a joke. No one suspected for a moment that it would receive serious consideration, let alone the endorsement of a majority of the members. As a matter of fact, it is not now known whether the members of the Lower House were in earnest in voting for the bill, inasmuch as it is intimated that the motion to reconsider, is part of a prearranged plan to defeat the bill. There is a small sentiment in the assembly in favour of sending the bill to the Senate, "just for fun."

What an upheaval in all our social customs were such a measure to become law here! The Jimmy Woods, the solitary drinker, the single breaster, call him whatever you will, would welcome the legislation which saves him from a custom which demands he should occasionally pay for another man's refreshment, but the ordinary man, the man who likes company over his glass, will find himself in great peril. As the old Scotsman said to his wife, it was not so much the drink that he enjoyed as the "here's tae ye."

I am pleased to be able to tell my lady readers in strict confidence that the price of beauty has at last been definitely defined. Of course I know that no woman with due sense of her ineffable charms, would think of taking the remark to herself. Such an impossible thought never entered my mind for a moment. It is designed especially for those who have that peculiar faculty of saying "Oh dear Mrs. B. how thin you're looking, and how awfully pale you are." There is always a lady in the circle who is passé and I'm sure she'll be glad to hear that an Oakland milliner with a few slight blemishes to her natural charms has just sued a beauty culturist for \$15,000 gold for destroying her only vestiges of beauty, thus rendering her case still more hopeless. Of course, there's no need of a beauty doctor in Hongkong, my chivalrous friends inform me. I wonder?

A Denver woman, who is the daughter of a California millionaire, is suing for divorce on the ground of cruelty, the principal act of cruelty being her husband's refusal to allow male guests to kiss the bride at their wedding, in 1892. Heavens, the brute! Wonder he allowed her to be present at the wedding!

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The present pupils of Queen's College have subscribed \$250 towards the proposed memorial to Dr. Wright, their former Head Master.

Mr. H. C. Nicolle, of Colombo, Ceylon, Treasurer of that Colony, (formerly of Hongkong), who died on December 7th, left estate valued at £2,751 14s. 4d.

The appointment of Mr. W. Wilson as acting Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, in succession to Mr. Robert Mitchell is notified by advertisement.

Since the 1st of January 35 cases of plague have been notified. Most of the cases have occurred in Kowloon City. It appears, that there is a serious outbreak of plague at the Chinese city of Samchun on the frontier of the New Territory.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. H. L. Dennys to act as Crown Solicitor during the absence on leave of Mr. F. L. Bowley or until further notice, with effect from this date.

Mr. Robert Mitchell, late manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, left the colony on April 28th on board the s.s. *Eastern* for Australia. He received an enthusiastic send-off from his personal friends.

The Police have received information from the New Territory that on Monday night the magazine of the Kowloon-Canton Railway at Tai-po was broken into, and between \$500 and \$600 worth of dynamite stolen.

That there were only three bankruptcies before the Supreme Court on Thursday indicates that business in the colony is improving.

At the Magistracy on Thursday Mr. F. A. Hazeland ordered a native who was found in possession of a quantity of opium to pay a fine of \$330, the alternative being three months' jail.

While in the waiting room at the Magistracy, under the charge of a Chinese constable, a native who had been sentenced on Tuesday to two months' hard labour and six hours' stocks, made good his escape, but was captured a few hours later by an excise officer. The prisoner when arrested had a clock in his possession, which was supposed to have been stolen. When charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland yesterday a similar sentence was imposed to that passed previously.

The crowded house at the Theatre on Monday when the Ward Comedy Co. gave their farewell performance was the best possible testimony of the high opinion the Hongkong public has formed of the Company during their fortnight's stay in the Colony. The programme on Monday embraced vaudeville and dramatic items, with a number of capital songs interspersed, and altogether afforded an excellent entertainment, and a fitting termination of a most successful season.

A native who has disobeyed four orders of banishment was charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Monday with returning from exile, and with attempting to break from a cell in which he was placed at the Central Police Station. He was found guilty on both counts, sentenced to ten months' imprisonment and four hours' stocks on the first, and fined \$25, in default six weeks' imprisonment, on the second.

Several well known China hands are leaving for home on a well-earned holiday by the *Kanagawa Maru* to-day. Among the number may be mentioned Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Lamert, of Ningpo, and Captain L. F. Hussey the genial skipper of Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co's S.S. *Wosang*. Captain Hussey has been for quite a number of years on the China Coast, and goes home with the best wishes of a wide circle of friends for a happy and pleasant sojourn in the old country.

On Thursday the funeral took place at the Happy Valley of Mr. B. A. Coombes, who came out to Hongkong about five months ago to take up duty in Watson's Aerated Water Factory, and who died at the hospital yesterday morning from typhoid fever contracted at Canton. Deceased, who was 25 years of age, was sent up to Canton about a month ago to assist in the aerated water factory there. He was attacked by typhoid fever and brought down to Hongkong about nine days ago. The attack was particularly severe and he died as stated on Thursday morning.

A ticket seller employed by the Star Ferry Co. was charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Monday with stealing an Indian's purse, which contained a number of Hongkong notes and some sovereigns. The story told by the complainant was that in a rush to catch a ferry he left his purse in front of defendant's window. He only realised his loss after the ferry had pushed off, and then observed the defendant pick up his purse. He returned to the Hongkong shore by the next boat and claimed his valuables, but the defendant denied all knowledge of the purse. After hearing the evidence his Worship discharged the defendant.

The guests of the R.G.A. Sergeants Mess Games Club spent a very enjoyable evening in the Artillery Theatre, Victoria Barracks, last night, when a quadrille party was held. Dancing started shortly after 8 p.m., and continued merrily until the early morning hours, the votaries of St. Terpsichore apparently being not affected by the oppressiveness of the atmosphere. Company Sergeant-Major Owen and Sergeant Walton acted as M.C.s, and in conjunction with their brother sergeants, were responsible for an excellent evening's entertainment. The attendance included Colonel Chamier, C.M.G., Commanding the Royal Artillery in South China, Captain Dwyer, adjutant, and Captain Garnett, President of the Club and officer commanding the 23th Company.

Of the many cunning devices adopted by Chinese to smuggle opium into the Colony, the most ingenious method we have heard of attempting to defraud the Opium Farmer was told to Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Tuesday. On Monday, a native walked off one of the river steamers with a basket of preserved eggs covered with soot. An excise officer detained him, and in examining the basket broke one of the eggs, and found that it contained opium. Others were broken, and more of the drug discovered. The owner of the basket was forthwith arrested, and on appearing before the Court yesterday for contravening the Opium Ordinance he was ordered to pay a fine of \$20, the alternative being one month's imprisonment.

A native, described by Chinese as "a professional phoenix stealer," appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Wednesday on a charge of stealing a fowl. The mode adopted by the bird fancier is simple, but effective. He goes forth in quest of poultry with a small bag of rice and a cockroach. The rice is first sprinkled on the ground near the feet of the thief, and generally the bird is unwary enough to rush to pick it up, and to be picked up by the man. In the case of a timid fowl, however, the cockroach is let loose, and placed so that it will run towards the phoenix stealer. The bird follows, and is secured by the ready poacher. The first method was put into effect by the defendant at Samshui-po on Tuesday, and he was successful in snaring a fowl. It was a boisterous bird, however, and its noisy clucking attracted the attention of the owner, who gave the defendant in charge. Mr. Hazeland sentenced him to two months' imprisonment with hard labour and six hours' exposure in the stocks.

FROZEN PIGS FOR LONDON.

A Hankow correspondent of a Tientsin contemporary writes:—Sir Thomas Sutherland's references at the P. and O. meeting to the possibility of a big trade in frozen Chinese pork caused much amusement in many quarters, but there is at this moment in Hankow 8,000 tons of frozen pig waiting shipment. Blue Funnel steamers will take the cargo to Liverpool. A huge trade is about to begin. A refrigerating company has been started, and is now handling not only pig, but pheasants, duck, teal, geese etc. Hankow is eagerly looking forward to the future when this company gets working on full steam. There is every indication of the assured prosperity, and future greatness of this happily-situated town.—[8,000 tons of frozen pig meat, we suppose, something like 160,000 carcasses. Hankow must be better supplied with cold storage accommodation than is generally supposed!—Ed H.W.P.]

AN EXTRADITION CASE.

STORY OF A PIRACY.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on April 28th Mr. H. L. Dennys, acting Crown Solicitor, applied on behalf of the Chinese Government for the extradition to China of Sun Kwan Cheung on charges of armed robbery and murder.

Mr. Dennys informed the Court that on August 23rd two men, who would be called as witnesses, were on a ferry boat going from Kongmoon to Sunning, the two owners of the boat also being on board. At about four o'clock in the afternoon, when in a very narrow part of the river, and as the boat was gliding near the shore, some six men, all armed with revolvers, rushed out from a clump of palm trees and held up the ferry. Four of the robbers jumped aboard; one of the owners at the same time jumping ashore and attempting to escape. He was pursued by the other two robbers and shot dead. The passengers were relieved of all their jewellery, and valuables to the amount of \$300 were removed from the boat.

After hearing evidence his Worship adjourned the case.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Tuesday the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutchison presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, M.G. (Vice President), Colonel Bedford, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Pearse, (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

ANTHRAX.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON reported that a case of anthrax had occurred at the Kennedy-town cattle Depot. The sick bullock died and the thirteen others which came from Hoihow were slaughtered.

Mr. HOOPER—How is the case proceeding?

The PRESIDENT—No more outbreaks. That was a fortnight ago.

PLAGUE AT SAMCHUN.

The HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT minuted that a report had been received from the District Officer at Taipo that a serious outbreak of plague had occurred at Samchun in Chinese Territory. It was stated that there had been over 100 deaths during the last few days and the last two markets had not been held owing to the outbreak. The people had been fasting and holding noisy ceremonies to drive away the sickness. The District Officer was authorised to stop hawkers from crossing the frontier at Samchun into our territory. The Chief Superintendent of Police was watching the launches coming to Hongkong.

Mr. HOOPER—The action by the Government of placing a cordon on the frontier to prevent Chinese crossing our territory is very satisfactory.

CHINESE BURIAL PROBLEMS.

A Minute by the Medical Officer of Health relative to section A of Mount Caroline Cemetery was read in which the Medical Officer of Health stated that there was only room for thirty-nine more graves in this section. As the Public Works Department were apparently unable to do anything towards laying out a further area as an extension until the Legislative Council had passed the Bill relative to disinterments, and the Board had then to authorize the same, he thought the only course to adopt was to ask the Registrar General to notify all the undertakers in the City that section A would be full about the end of this month and that therefore no further interments could take place in this section after that time. Section A is the free section and the effect of this filling up at Mount Caroline will be to divert all such interments to the Kai Lung Wan Cemetery, which at present is not used as fully as it should be. Cemetery Bye-Law 13 stated that the Sections were to be of such size and arrangement as the Board might direct, and therefore this minute should be submitted to the Board, so that they might know that section A was practically full. The Board was already aware of the difficulties which had arisen in connection with the question of disinterment of remains from ancient graves.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—Let the plan referred to in Bye Law No 14 be produced at the next Board Meeting. For the time being Kai Lung Wan Cemetery had better be used for free burials. When are the Government going to proceed with the new Bill re exhumation?

Mr. LAU CHU PAK minuted—I don't see why the poor Chinese should be made to suffer for the delay in extending this section of the cemetery. Not to say inconvenience, it will cost them more money, which they can ill afford, to send their dead from one end of the town to the other to be buried. Pending the passing of the amendment bill the other sections should be used for free burials.

Mr. HO KOM TONG minuted—I agree with Mr. Lau Chu Pak.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Is it not possible to make use of some other sections in the meantime?

The PRESIDENT—Section B has already been made into a free burial place, and we now have to use section C, but there is not very much space there. It might be possible, however, that without exhumation the Public Works should make some terraces down there.

Mr. HOOPER—I couldn't quite understand the minute of Mr. Lau Chu Pak; would you mind reading it again.

The PRESIDENT read, "The poor Chinese are made to suffer."

Mr. HOOPER—How do they suffer?

Mr. HO KOM TONG—The poor Chinese have to carry the coffins to the other end of the city.

Mr. HOOPER—How far is that?

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—About eight miles.

Mr. HOOPER—Who pays for that?

Mr. HO KOM TONG—The poor people have to pay themselves.

Mr. HOOPER—Don't the Tung Wah Hospital pay for that?

Mr. HO KOM TONG—No.

The PRESIDENT—I don't think the point is so serious as Mr. Lau Chu Pak makes out, because before people from the west went to the Mount Caroline Cemetery, which is further away.

Mr. HOOPER—In China proper is it not a general rule rather than an exception that people have to carry their dead several miles for interment?

Mr. HO KOM TONG—They have not to carry them very far, and there they pay about \$3 expenses, as against from \$10 to \$15 here.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—How many burials are there a week in the free section of Mount Caroline?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The average interments from January 1st to April 1st, 1909, work out at 40 per month, while from the 1st January one "SECTION 175."

The report by the Medical Officer of Health relative to certain houses remaining to be dealt with under section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903-19.8 was considered.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—I quite agree with the Medical Officer of Health that the records should state the land lots as well as the house numbers. In all cases of exemption, when approved, the owners should be notified. I fancy in some of the cases where exemptions are recommended, the houses comply with the law already, as they were built since the passing of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1887.

The PRESIDENT moved that the modifications be granted in accordance with the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. HOOPER seconded, remarking that it would be of course superfluous to grant modifications in cases where the houses already comply with the law.

The motion was agreed to.

THE DRAFT ESTIMATES.

The PRESIDENT said he did not think that there was much in the estimates which required any further explanation than he had already given. Under the vote Coolies, he now proposed to ask for a hundred coolies to be put on the permanent staff instead of the present 78. The vote Cemeteries and Disinterment of dead bodies would now be taken over by the Public Works, and would no longer appear in the estimates. As to the question of lighting the Central Market, it was obvious a saving could be effected, and he suggested that a committee should be appointed to consider the feasibility of improving the lighting of the market and cheapening the rate. In addition to these changes he thought it would be advisable that the Government should undertake the slaughtering at Maitanwai, which at present was let out to contract. At Kennedytown the Government undertook the slaughtering. He would lay a memo before the Board next meeting giving the figures.

Mr. HOOPER wished to know the reason for another disinfectant being used in place of Jeyes Fluid.

The PRESIDENT replied that it was cheaper, and it seemed to be of quite the same standard.

After other remarks the PRESIDENT agreed to place before the Board the reports and recommendations on which the Government had acted in adopting this new disinfectant.

Mr. HOOPER raised the question of the lighting of the market. He understood it was contemplated introducing Kitson light, but he thought that possibly the electric light could be improved at a reduced cost.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the REGISTRAR-GENERAL, a committee was appointed to consider the lighting of the markets. The committee was constituted as follows:—The President, the Registrar-General and Mr. Hooper.

Mr. HOOPER pointed out that it was proposed to recommend \$2,000 on the vote for headstones as the price had risen from \$43.50 to \$60 a thousand. He thought the figure rather high.

The PRESIDENT explained that the cost last year was \$1,441.

Mr. HOOPER could not see how so much was needed. There had been no plague this year, and assuming that we had plague at the same rate as last year it would not bring the amount up to \$2,000.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT did not think the figures were too much.

The matter then dropped.

Mr. HOOPER said that personal emoluments represented the salaries of all the staff of the Sanitary Department. He had nothing to find fault with in the salaries of the officers, but he thought it was a fitting occasion to call attention to the number of officers. The Sanitary Commission found, among many other things, that better results would be given if the districts were under the control of one man, because at present a good deal of the work was done twice over. By a proper systematising, the work could be done by a smaller number of men. The Commission recommended that the districts be increased to twelve, as experience had shown it was better to reduce the size of the district. That would mean twelve districts in Victoria and two in Kowloon. With the growth of the population in Kowloon there would probably be another change. Now, when the Government was doing everything possible in the way of retrenchment he thought it was a good time to take advantage of the suggestion made by the Commission. The suggestions were made sufficiently long ago for the Government to have digested them, and he thought they could now view the suggestions more impartially and more favourably than at the time they were made, especially as retrenchment was now forced upon them. In these circumstances he suggested that the Board ask the Government to divide the city of Victoria into twelve districts instead of ten, and have one inspector in charge of each. It might possibly be objected that this re-arrangement would interfere with the collection of statistics, but he thought that reasons of economy ought to outweigh that. Therefore he would move that in view of so much of the administration of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance having been transferred to the Building Authority, and the City of Victoria being now in a far more cleanly condition, the Board recommend the Government in the interests of retrenchment to divide the city into twelve districts with one inspector in charge of each district, and the services of the superfluous inspectors dispensed with as soon as practicable.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT seconded, saying that they had nothing to add to what they had already put in the report of the Commission.

The PRESIDENT asked if the resolution meant that there should be only twelve inspectors.

Mr. HOOPER replied in the negative, and said that the resolution would be a guide to the Government, who could give effect to it in any way they thought proper.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT seconded by the Hon. Mr. HEWETT, the changes proposed in the draft estimates were approved.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF MEETING.

COLONEL BEDFORD gave notice of motion, for next meeting that the Board appoint a committee to enquire into the malarial state of the locality surrounding Lyemoon Barracks, brought about by action not within the purview of the Military.

The shareholders of Messrs. Hall and Holtz, Ltd, Shanghai, are to be asked to sanction the borrowing of a sum or sums not exceeding £15,000 for the purposes of the company. An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders is called for May 6th.

HONGKONG SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

INCREASED DONATION BY MR. MODY.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Hongkong Seamen's Institute which has been the long cherished object of all deeply interested in the welfare of the sailors who visit our port took place on April 28th under the happiest auspices. The site is well known. It is on the Praya East, a little to the east of Arsenal Street, and fronts the harbour. The speeches given on the occasion were largely historical, so that there is no need to reiterate what was then stated, suffices it to say that the new institute which is to spring up in this conspicuous site will be worthy of the colony. The site was purchased for \$37,000, but it was found that a building, such as was contemplated could not be erected for less than \$35,000, but happily the problem which thus confronted the committee was solved by Mr. Mody, who, on learning of the facts agreed to raise his promised contribution for the erection of the institute from \$35,000 to \$50,000. There remains the money necessary to furnish the building when completed and doubtless this will be forth-coming when the time demands it.

The building is to be of three storeys. The ground floor will be occupied by a chapel capable of seating 200, a large billiard room and dining and refreshment rooms, with offices. The second floor will have a large concert hall capable of accommodating 400 people, as well as offices, while the top floor will be devoted to dormitories, in which 33 men can have separate bedroom accommodation, and if necessary accommodation for another 30 can be arranged. It will be so constructed that another storey can be added if it should be found advisable in the future to extend the accommodation of the institute.

A large gathering assembled to witness the stone laying ceremony, which took place under a masked covering. Among those present were Mrs. and Miss Lyon, Mrs. Lander, Mrs. Pollock, Mr. H. N. Mody, Bishop Lander, Rev. J. H. France, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Revs. J. Bunbury, E. T. Johnson, Thomson, Dr. Clark, Messrs. G. A. Woodcock, E. Shellim, C. S. Gubbay, A. Shelton Hooper, A. Ough, J. L. McPherson, G. Piercy, E. L. Hughes and others. On the arrival of H. E. the Governor, he was escorted by Bishop Lander and the clergymen to the place selected for the ceremonial. The proceedings began by the singing of the hymn, "The Church's one foundation," led by the boys of St. Peter's Church choir under Mr. Sykes. This was followed by the office for the laying of the foundation stone, special prayers being offered. Then the Bishop at the close addressed the gathering.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF VICTORIA then said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, before the stone is laid the committee desire me to give a little historical sketch of the scheme that is to make such progress to-day and also there will be an opportunity for the gentleman who is the prime promoter of it to address you. For many years past the excellent Missions to Seamen have had agents in Hongkong and all the chaplains one after another have expressed their desire for a suitable institute on this side of the harbour in addition to the one in Kowloon. So long ago as 1893 Mr. Goldsmith who was then chaplain took steps for the provision of a seamen's institute and he opened what was called the Seamen's Star, renting premises in Queen's Road. Three years later he set forward his scheme for the erection of the Seamen's Institute on the grounds of the Sailor's Institute. I understand that the committee gave their consent and some money was collected but it was not found possible for lack of funds to go on with this scheme. Then Mr. Cliff took his place and he acquired larger premises called the Seamen's Star at the corner of Pottinger Street where a very excellent work was carried on for some time but alas, lack of funds necessitated their moving into smaller premises in D'Aguiar Street. But the rent was high and before very long they had to remove from these premises. My very revered predecessor Bishop Hoare issued an appeal to

friends in England for money to erect a large institute. Some £600 or £700 was given and others were willing to contribute but alas it was impossible to secure a site. The committee was advised to invest the money in order that they might rent premises in Wanchai, the premises that they now hold, where an excellent work is going on. But they are altogether inadequate and also too far away from the centre of things. At the beginning of 1908 this site where we now are seemed to be coming into the market and Mr. France who was ever on the qui vive for something of the sort said it was time for us to be considering. We made inquiries and found that the site thought excellent in many respects was extremely costly. It has a grand frontage and it is spacious. The site was to cost \$37,000. It seemed altogether beyond us but nothing venture nothing have. We consulted with Your Excellency and you consented to preside over a public meeting, which was held in March last year. You will remember that His Excellency urged forward the scheme in his speech, and Admiral Sir Arthur Moore, who was then the Admiral in command, also spoke, taking a very keen interest in it. I received a letter from him some little time ago in which he said "I can testify to the excellent work carried on at Hongkong by the chaplains of the Missions to Seamen, participated in by men of all denominations. I know that our men in the naval service greatly value the privilege of making use of the Institute when on leave. A more suitable building would be welcomed by them as well as by the men of the mercantile marine who visit Hongkong. After Admiral Moore Mr. Mody expressed a desire to speak and His Excellency gave him permission to do so. Those who were there will remember the electric shock he gave us—how we were thrilled with delight when he got up and told us that he thought the work among the sailors was so important to the colony that he would like to give a donation of \$35,000 towards the building—(applause) providing a suitable site could be obtained. We then appointed Sir Paul Chater whose accident we all deplore to-day and the result of which we hope will soon pass away and that he will be restored to his accustomed health—we appointed Sir Paul Chater as treasurer. He took it up and collected upwards of \$27,000 which added to the sum already in hand collected by the late Bishop Hoare the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith and the Rev. J. H. France amounted to the sum of \$38,000, sufficient to pay for the site. We are grateful indeed to him—(applause)—for the public spirit he has shown, and we are also grateful to all those friends, heads of firms and others who have come forward and responded to Sir Paul's appeal. We now had sufficient money to pay for the site and we had Mr. Mody's promised donation of \$35,000 towards the building. Mr. Bryer, the architect, had drawn up plans for a very suitable three storied building. On the ground floor a chapel to accommodate two hundred men, a billiard room, large enough for two full size tables, a large dining room and refreshment room and so on; on the second floor will be a beautiful concert hall with accommodation for 400 men, with office and quarters for the caretaker and so on; the whole of the top floor will be for dormitories where we shall provide separate bedrooms for 30 seafaring men, and we can accommodate more in other dormitories. The building is to be substantially built. Tenders were invited and alas the lowest tender for the building apart from any furniture was \$50,000. We had gone around collecting for the site and had only \$35,000 for the building that our good friend Mr. Mody had promised. What was to be done? We stated the case to Mr. Mody without the least insinuation that he should do anything more. It was the last thought in our minds. He said "When I promised you \$35,000 I thought that would do for the building. If it will not, I will raise my contribution to \$50,000" (applause). We are all very proud to see on this stone the inscription that this building is erected and presented to the colony by our good friend Mr. Mody (applause). Before our munificent friend addresses you, I know there is one thing he would like me to say and that is that he wishes his benefactions to in no way deprive any

one from giving. On the contrary he is desirous that that should be a stimulus to other people and not a deterrent. He told me he was willing to give this donation on the understanding that other people would furnish the building in a suitable and proper manner. The committee went into the matter. They came to the conclusion that they could quite easily spend the matter of \$15,000 and furnish it very nicely and the least they could possibly do it on would be \$10,000. I cannot conceive it possible that when this building is erected on such a beautiful site that it should be useless for the lack of the furniture. I feel persuaded that the ladies and gentlemen, here present and others interested will come forward and provide necessary the \$10,000 or \$15,000 to suitably furnish the building as soon as it is open. On behalf of the church which I represent—Your Excellency I am sure will speak on behalf of the colony—I desire to assure Mr. Mody that we deeply appreciate his generosity and we will do our best to maintain this building in a manner worthy of his munificence and of the objects for which he has given it. (applause).

Mr. MODY said—Your Excellency, My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen:—Believing, as I do, a care for the welfare and comfort of the men of our mercantile Marine when on shore to be the duty of all those in whose interests they brave the dangers of the mighty deep, and especially so in a Port such as this of Hongkong which proudly ranks among the first of the great Shipping Centres of our Empire, I have taken a very keen interest in the Mission to Seamen here because to our Merchant seamen this Colony owes so much of its prosperity its commerce, I might almost say its very existence—(applause) and it seemed to me but right and fitting that we here should do something to show our gratitude to them for what they do for us, (applause) and well I know from experience how grateful they are for any kindness shown to them. Among the greatest of their needs is such an Institution as this, some place to which when so far away from their own homes they can come for rest, healthy recreation and wholesome refreshment (applause). The Mission to Seamen has been established here for many years past carrying on its good work as best it could, now in one part of the town, now in another, but ever without sufficient means to do all that it would wish to do and without, till now, a proper and suitable building of its own; it was these considerations which led me to offer at the public meeting held last year, over which Your Excellency so kindly presided, the sum of \$35,000 to build an Institute if a site could be provided, which sum it was then thought would provide such a building as is required. My offer was, I am pleased to say, accepted and a site has been secured where we now stand. It was however found that a sum of at least \$50,000 would be required for the building and, as His Lordship the Bishop has just informed you, it has been my privilege and my pleasure to increase by \$15,000 my original gift (applause) and to take upon myself the whole cost of the building and to present the same to the Colony (Applause). It is gratifying to note that, since the needs of the Missions were brought to the notice of the Public and the present scheme inaugurated by the Committee and others last year, it has received such hearty support from the residents of Hongkong, subscriptions to the amount of \$27,255 having already been collected. This sum in addition to the sums previously collected by the late Bishop Hoare and the Chaplains of the Mission has enabled them to pay for the site. For this satisfactory state of affairs we have, while gratefully thanking all those who have so generously given very largely to thank the energy and persuasive tongue of the Honorary Treasurer to the Fund, Sir Paul Chater—(applause)—who is unfortunately unable to be present here to-day, but further sums are required for the proper and adequate furnishing and equipment of the Building when completed and I venture to hope that this gift of mine may help to stimulate the generosity of others and induce them to come forward with the money required for this purpose—(applause). Sir, I am not good at speech-making and shall not therefore keep you much longer from the completion of the ceremony we are met here to-day to perform, but there is a gentleman with

us to-day to whose untiring zeal the Mission to Seamen owes a very great debt and he is the Reverend Mr. France—(applause). Mr. France, I venture to say without fear of contradiction, has done a great work in the Colony and to him more than any man is due the credit of this Institution we are founding here to-day. (applause) He leaves us shortly for the Homeland and that he will be missed, not only by his sailor friends, but by all who know him, cannot be questioned (applause). In losing him we lose one whom it will be hard to equal, impossible to better, (applause) and we shall esteem ourselves lucky if we ever have the good fortune to welcome him back to Hongkong (applause). On the completion of this building I shall have realized in part my ambition to do something of lasting good to the Colony of Hongkong where I have lived and prospered so many happy years and I hope that before my end comes to realize also the completion of that other wish so dear to my heart and to see the University of Hongkong an accomplished fact (applause). I will now ask Your Excellency to receive at the hands of the Architect a silver trowel and therewith to well and truly lay the Foundation Stone of this Institution and, if it may please Your Excellency to do so, to retain the tool as a memento of this occasion (applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY then descended from the platform and walked to the front of the stone, the spectators pressing forward as he proceeded with his task. The Governor said, "In the faith of Jesus Christ we place the Foundation Stone in the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen."

When the stone was lowered and properly placed, His Excellency tapped it several times with a mallet, after which he declared it well and truly laid amid much applause.

The stone bore the following inscription: "This foundation stone was laid by H.E. Sir Frederick J. D. Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O. This building is erected and presented to the colony by H. N. Mody, a Parsi gentleman 50 years resident in Hongkong."

HIS EXCELLENCY said—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen: The solemn service in which we have all just participated reminds us that the building of which we have just laid the foundation stone is a building for a very high and lofty purpose. It is always a great pleasure to open any new public works and public buildings, which denote the development and progress of the Colony, and to me it is a very special pleasure and privilege to be connected with the inception of a building, the aim and object of which is to better the lot of the British seaman (Applause). We all know that we owe our position among the nations of the world to our supremacy on the sea (Applause); that is, that our empire would cease to exist if we forfeited that predominant position alike in the ships of war and in the fleets of commerce. These two are really inter-dependent. Our commerce could not exist if it were not that it was protected during times of war by our navy; our colonies could no longer belong to our empire unless they were protected also by our men-of-war. On the other hand, the United Kingdom could not afford to maintain the heavy burden of a great and powerful navy if it were not for the wealth which is brought by our oversea commerce and mercantile marine. We are all proud to assert that Hongkong is the premier port in the world; that the tonnage which enters this harbour, including junk traffic, is larger than that which enters any other port in the world (Applause). It behoves us therefore to place in the front rank of our duties as well as our interests, the care of the seamen who come to this port. We have several institutions here devoted to this service. There is the Sailors' Home, and there is the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home for which a special effort is to be made in the next few days. There is the Seamen's Mission which supports this institution and a corresponding one on the other side at Kowloon, in addition to a most useful service afloat. During the past year the launch *Day-spring*, the launch of the Mission, has made over 2,300 visits in the harbour. There were over 10,500 men who have made use of the institute at Wanchai which this new building will replace. Over 4,500 have used the institute at Kowloon, and I am told that some 7,000 men have occupied beds in the in-

stitute on this side. These figures show a very remarkable increase over the figures of the previous year, indicating the continued usefulness and progress of this institution, and the noble work which is being done by the Seamen's Mission. You will remember, the Bishop has just reminded us, that it is just a year ago that a meeting was convened in the City Hall at which I had the privilege to preside when Admiral Moore made a characteristic speech, and told us from his large experience of the invaluable work which is being done in all parts of the world by institutes such as this. At that meeting Mr. Mody announced that he would give \$35,000 for a new building, and we have just heard that he has now increased it to \$50,000 (Applause). At that time the committee had in hand some \$12,700, and during the past year a further sum of \$27,285 has been collected, making altogether a sum of close on \$90,000. It was estimated that the site and the building here would cost about \$88,000, which leaves somewhere near \$2,000 towards furnishing and equipment, and we have just heard from His Lordship the Bishop that a sum of at least \$10,000, will be required. Therefore there remains something upwards of \$8,000 to be collected before we can say the whole task has been completed. Ladies and gentlemen, the success of this project is primarily due to Mr. Mody (Applause), and I find that words fail me to express my admiration of the wonderful generosity which he has shown towards this Colony in which he has spent some fifty years of irreproachable character and strenuous work. Indeed, happy is the Colony which possesses such a man as Mr. Mody amongst its citizens (Applause). Long-fellow has told us in words which are familiar to every English speaking child, that those who aspire to rise above the sordid objects of gratifying their ambitions and their desires, should endeavour to leave behind them footprints in the sands of time to inspire the ideals of those who follow after. Mr. Mody's footprints will be writ large in the Colony of Hongkong in landmarks which will endure for generations, and in future those who come after him can speak of him in the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren *Si monumentum requiris circumspice*. In the name of the Colony, and in the name of the thousands of sailors who will in future years benefit by your generosity, and will have cause to hold your name in reverence, I thank you, Sir, for your generosity which has enabled this project to be fulfilled (Applause). This is a day of happy augury for the Seamen's Institute, and there is only one note of regret amongst us to-day. We know that we are about to lose the services of Mr. France who, for over ten years, with absolute self-abnegation and devotion to his work, has devoted himself to the cause of the Seamen's Mission. I suppose that there is not one man amongst the 15,000 who have used this institute during the past year, or amongst the thousands who used it in the years before who will not regard his departure as a personal loss to himself (Applause). But he is leaving behind him footprints in the sands of time, footprints which I trust will stimulate his successor to follow his worthy example. Sir, to you too, in the name of the Colony I tender most hearty thanks for the work you have done while you have been here, and I hope that you and Mrs. France may continue to enjoy many years of extended usefulness in England (Applause). My Lord Bishop, it has been a great pleasure to me that the task of laying this foundation stone should have fallen to my lot. I thank you, Sir, for this charming memento, which I shall always value and prize, and retain as a memento of this day. The building has been dedicated in the solemn words I have read from the office to-day, and it only remains for me to express the hearty wish and entire conviction that this building will be a great blessing to thousands and thousands of sailors; that this institute may never lack funds to support it in a worthy style, and that the noble and useful work which has been done by the Seamen's Missions may continue to prosper as it has prospered in the past (Applause).

The Rev J. H. FRANCE had much pleasure in proposing a very hearty vote of thanks to His

Excellency the Governor. He did not propose to inflict a speech upon them, but he did wish to express their deep sense of the kindness of His Excellency. They know that His Excellency had ever been forward in taking a deep interest in all good works in this Colony. They remembered how readily he had come forward when the meeting was proposed last year, and had gone into the details of what they proposed to do. Personally he felt a debt of gratitude to His Excellency, and he wished to thank him for the kindly words he had spoken that afternoon. He felt they were altogether too kindly in reference to himself, but at the same time human nature was such that he appreciated them, though he felt that he did not deserve them. He wished those present to accord a very hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency with enthusiasm worthy of the occasion.

On the vote being heartily accorded, Mr. Mody called for three cheers for His Excellency the Governor, and following this the Bishop called for three cheers for Mr. Mody.

Three cheers and a "tiger" succeeded in each instance, and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The subscriptions received towards the New Seamen's Institute, the foundation stone of which H. E. the Governor will lay to-morrow are as follows:

Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.	\$2,500.00
Butterfield & Swire	2,500.00
David Sassoon & Co., Ltd.	2,500.00
E. D. Sassoon & Co.	2,500.00
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	2,500.00
Standard Oil Co.	2,500.00
Charter & Mody	2,500.00
Chartered Bank	1,000.00
Siemssen & Co.	500.00
Melchers & Co.	500.00
Carlowitz & Co.	500.00
Jebsen & Co.,	500.00
Arnold Karberg & Co.,	500.00
Mercantile Bank	500.00
Canadian Pacific R.M.S. Line	500.00
Shewan Tomes & Co.,	500.00
Norddeutscher Lloyd	250.00
Hamburg Amerika Linie	250.00
J. Orange	250.00
Union Insurance Society of Canton	250.00
China Traders Insurance Co.,	250.00
E. C. Blanchflower R.N. for the Seamen and Marines of the China Squadron	250.00
Admiral Sir Arthur W. Moore	200.00
Lieut. Scriven for H.M.S. <i>Astraea</i> Ship's Company	100.00
Marcus Slade,	100.00
The Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Victoria	100.00
L. Gibbs,	50.00
J. V. Crowle, R.N. H.M.S. <i>Bedford</i>	51.00
Lieut. W. H. Darwell H.M.S. <i>Handy</i>	20.00
Officers and Men H.M.S. <i>Kent</i>	117.00
A.H.M.	10.00
Officers and Wardroom Men H.M.S. <i>King Alfred</i>	65.75
Officers and Men H.M.S. <i>Monmouth</i>	76.15
Mrs. Stokes	50.00
Rev. J. S. Ladds	10s. 6d. = 5.88
Lady Maria Brodie	£1 = 11.20
Mrs. R. G. Hoare	£25 = 280.29
Per Bishop of Victoria.	
Miss C. Cottrell 1 1 0	
Anonymous	10 0
G. R. Burners	5 5 0
Miss C. Austin	1 1 0
Miss Freere	15 0
Miss Mews	1 1 0
£ s. d.	
9 13 0 =	111.28
A. Friend per Rev. J. France	1 0 0 = 11.40
Per Bishop of Victoria	300.00
Per Rev. C. E. Thompson	1,000.00
Mr. D. R. Law's List	625.00
	\$27,285.95

The Statement of Accounts is as follows:—

RECEIPTS.	
To subscription as per list	\$27,285.95
To balance of monies collected by the late Bishop Hoare, Rev. A. G. Goldsmith and Rev. J. H. France	11,586.30

To bank interest...	113 40
	\$ 38,985.65
To balance in hand ...	\$544 40

In addition to above there is the \$35,000.00 promised by Mr. H. N. Mody.

EXPENDITURE.

By Hongkong Land Investment Co. Ltd. :-	
Purchase of land ...	\$37,800.00
Proportion of Crown	
Rent ...	15.00
	\$37,815.00
By Cheque Book ...	1.25
By Dennys & Bowley, Costs ...	75.00
By Yik Loong pulling down old building less allowance for old materials ...	550.00
By balance ...	544.40
	\$38,985.65

C. P. CHATER,
Hon. Treasurer.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV.
J. H. FRANCE.

The Rev. J. H. France the popular seamen's chaplain who leaves the colony next month after ten and a half years spent here as Chaplain to the Seamen's Mission was at a farewell social meeting held at the Seamen's Institute, Kowloon, on Monday, presented with cheques amounting in all to about \$3,000 and a handsome writing desk in blackwood. The contributors to the testimonial were the congregation of St. Peter's Church, the Ladies' Benevolent Society, and his numerous friends outside those organizations. Bishop Lander in making the presentation, on behalf of St. Peter's Church said that whatever was given Mr. France was but an inadequate expression of the depth of their feelings towards him. The Hon. Mr. May presented Mr. France on behalf of the Ladies' Benevolent Society with a cheque for \$360 and said that during his residence in Hongkong he had never known a man who brought more industry and real hard work into his duties than Mr. France had done. The Rev. Mr. France feelingly acknowledged the gifts.

MACAO LARMED.

A PROPOSED PETITION TO LISBON.

The Portuguese community of the Colony of Macao are to assemble to-morrow to discuss various matters affecting the future of the Colony and to authorise the forwarding of a petition by cable to the Government at Lisbon.

It is proposed that the petition shall set forth:

(1) That the opening of a new port close to Macao threatens the commerce and fishing interests of the Colony.

(2) That the delimitation of the boundary of the Colony should be proceeded with without any further delay, as procrastination in this matter is disadvantageous to the Colony.

(3) That the Governor-in-Council should be given full powers to take such steps for the welfare of the Colony as may seem to him desirable and necessary.

(3) That the Treaty relating to the Macao-Canton railway project be signed without further delay.

(4) That dredging operations in the harbour of Macao be undertaken forthwith.

(5) That the Treaty of Commerce with China (which was sent to Lisbon for ratification in 1904) be ratified without further delay.

A great crowd went from Macao to the new city of Heungchow on Wednesday, which was the day appointed for seventy students to go to the site of the city to eat cakes. Our Macao Correspondent was informed that among these cakes would be put one containing a fatal dose of poison. Each student would be expected to eat a cake and the one who died from the effects of the poison would be made the patron saint of the new city. This is the story current among the Chinese in Macao, but it seems an incredible tale.

ACROSS THE NEW TERRITORY.

BY AN OLD RESIDENT.

After more than a few years' absence from Hongkong, the writer was constrained, the other week, to make a trip across the New Territory—a trip which he had made many times before in the old days when the Kowloon-Canton Railway was still merely a project in the clouds and when Kowloon itself consisted of little more than a single street. The journey is one which can never be devoid of interest. In the early days of British occupation of the New Territory—it was taken over in 1899—a trip across the tract of newly-acquired country was rarely undertaken by anybody except Government officials whose duties led them thither, for it was considered that more than a little peril attached to the excursion owing to the hostile attitude of the inhabitants, who at first strongly resented the cession of their native district to the British. But, of course, as time went on, this spirit of resentment became less and at the present time it may be said to be obliterated entirely; and, if there ever was any real danger, it was not any more than is now entailed in a ricksha drive to Kowloon City.

THE ROUTE.

When it came to a question of selecting a route, we decided to follow the old accustomed one leading from Kowloon City over the hills by way of Shatin Gap to the right of the eminence commonly known as the Lion's Head. Through this Gap runs the old Chinese highway which led back into the interior and which in the early days of the Colony's history was heavily guarded to stop the passage of the innumerable bands of desperate robbers who made Hongkong and Kowloon City their happy hunting grounds and then decamped into the hinterland with their plunder. The worst of it was that the Chinese "braves" stationed there often belonged to the robber gangs themselves or claimed their share of the spoil.

How on earth this hill-track ascending the Gap ever came to be dignified with the title of "highway," passes comprehension. It is of the roughest description, much the same as one finds on the sides of Scafell or Ben Lomond, except for the fact that in the steeper places it is built in steps,—very tiresome to climb, by the way,—without the aid of which one would have to go up on all-fours. There is still an old guard house on the top, where a single armed police officer was on guard. The slopes of the summit are overgrown with a coarse hill-grass, and the only sound of life that one can hear is the shrill cry of the China pheasant as it calls to its mate.

After our arduous climb up-hill, it was pleasant at first to find ourselves upon the downward grade. The path was very rough but there were many pretty little bits of scenery to please the eye as we approached Shatin at the foot of the hill.

ON THE TAIPO ROAD.

Separating Shatin from the Taipo Road is a small toe, or bight, of Tolo Harbour, which we elected to cross by sampan instead of going round about. From this point onwards to Taipo, some ten miles further on, one traverses an excellent road, the making of which was the first important project undertaken by the British after the cession of the Territory. During its whole length it skirts the coast of Tolo Harbour and presents some of the prettiest as well as the grandest scenery that the eye of man could desire. There are hamlets, but no villages, along the route and at most of such places one observes countless objects of interest in Chinese country life—terraced paddy-patches on the steep hill-sides, orchards, wonderful irrigation devices, and an occasional water-wheel; not to speak of the people themselves, who have not yet become so accustomed to the appearance of Europeans that they can abstain from gazing at our party in wide-eyed wonderment.

ACROSS COUNTRY.

Had we come by the Taipo Road all the way, the distance traversed would have been 18 miles; nor had our route over the Shatin Gap shortened the journey—the only advantage being that it had afforded us a more diversified range of view and a greater variety of

scenery. From Taipo onwards until we touched the Chinese border at Samchun, we had no choice of routes, for that stretch of country is traversed by the fine new road which has not long been completed by the Colonial Government. It practically follows the course of the old Chinese highway while avoiding the latter's severe gradients and inconveniences. The old highway was indeed a stiff path, but it was well-worth traversing, just as is the new one, because of the singularly fine country through which it stretches. From the time we left Taipo until we reached the ancient City of Samchun, some ten miles away, we saw at every stage of the journey some new object to be admired—whether it be the ever-changing aspect of the mighty Timoshan rearing its head some 3,000 feet on our left, or the busy workers in the fields, the quaintness of some mid-country mansion or the peculiar habits and customs pertaining to a wayside market; any of these minutiae, or above all, the striking beauty of the country side through which we were passing.

In the old City of Samchun itself,—where we arrived very much tired after our 30 miles tramp, and glad to seek out the quarters where we had arranged to sleep for the night—there are many things to interest the observer, while the surrounding country is no less replete with objects and features worthy of attention. But our party had little time to devote to these desirable subjects of observation, for at an early hour next morning we had to be astir to catch the launch which was to bear us down the Samchun River to Deep Bay and so back again to Hongkong, leg-weary to a slight extent, no doubt, but happy in having girdled the New Territory.

E. H.

HONGKONG PHILHARMONIC
CONCERT.

Hongkong can hardly be considered a music loving community. On Monday night a vaudeville entertainment in the Royal Theatre attracted a crowded house but the Philharmonic concert in St. George's Hall on Tuesday was given by a chorus and orchestra of about sixty ladies and gentlemen to an audience which numbered very few more than one hundred and twenty. The concert was one which fully sustained the reputation of the Philharmonic Society and really deserved better support. Part I included three short songs by Mr. Frank Grove, the words being set to music by D. E. Grove (Mrs. Grove). Mr. Grove was in capital voice and his songs were greatly appreciated. In response to an irresistible demand for an encore he sang "All's right with the world." A lullaby (Smart) was rendered unaccompanied by Miss Seth. Miss Glover, Mr. E. A. Ayris, Rev. A. B. Thornhill, and Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, and was heartily applauded. The part songs by the chorus "To Sylvia" (Schubert), and "Ichabod" (Tchaikowsky) were capitally given and deserved all the applause with which they were greeted. One of the most acceptable numbers in Part I of the programme was the piano solos by Mrs. Grove. Her selections were a Nocturne (Chopin, Op. 37 No. 1) and the "Spinning Song" by Wagner-Liszt which were given in the able manner which we have learned to expect from this accomplished executant.

Part II comprised the song cycle "On Jhelum River" (Finder), the solos being taken by Mrs. E. G. Barrett and the Rev. M. Longridge. Both sang well and the final duet "Kingfisher Blue" had in deference to the wishes of the audience to be repeated.

The concert concluded with a ballad "The Wreck of the Hesperus" by the chorus and orchestra, the work having been specially orchestrated for this concert by Mr. Denman Fuller. The chorus are to be congratulated on the success which they attained in the rendering of this piece and the applause evoked was heartily deserved.

Mr. J. S. Dobie, the Hongkong Agent of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. informs us that he is in receipt of advice that the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending 10th April amounted to 28,746.31 tons, and the sales during the period to 25,668.39 tons.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 26th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

REDUCTION OF CAPITAL.

An application was submitted by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon, on behalf of Langfeldt and Co., Ltd., Yokohama, who petitioned for confirmation by the Court of a resolution for the reduction of the capital of the company.

Sir Henry Berkeley said the special resolution to reduce the capital was passed on December 9th, 1908, and confirmed on the 29th of that month. The resolution was "That the capital of the company be reduced from yen 150,000 divided into 1,500 shares of yen 100 each to yen 100,000 divided into 2,000 shares of yen 50 each, and that such reduction be effected by redeeming 500 shares of the issued shares of the company, and returning to the holders thereof as the price of such reduction, such sum (not exceeding the paid-up value of the said shares) as may be agreed upon between the directors and the owners of the shares to be redeemed. And by sub-dividing the remaining 1,000 shares yen 100 each into 2,000 shares of yen 50 each." All his Lordship's wishes had been complied with, but there was the remaining question as to dispensing with the words "and reduced." In a recent case which he brought before his Lordship, the case of the Wei-hai-wei Land Company, his Lordship fixed a fortnight or a month.

His Lordship—You can take the same order as in that case.

Sir Henry—Thank you, my Lord.

His Lordship—I see there are five creditors not paid.

Sir Henry—They are consenting, my Lord.

The application was granted.

A NEW BARRISTER.

Sir Henry Berkeley, before the business of the Court was commenced, said he had much pleasure in presenting to his Lordship Mr. Challoner Alabaster, who was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple some five years ago. The certificate had been lodged with the Registrar and all the papers were in order. Therefore he moved that his Lordship approve and admit Mr. Alabaster to practise at the Bar of this colony.

His Lordship—Mr. Alabaster, it gives me very much pleasure in admitting you to practise before this Court. I am sure to you it seems almost like coming home, and I daresay many of the older practitioners of this Court know your name quite well. I am sure they will join with me in wishing that you have come to stay and that you will make your home amongst us.

Mr. Challoner—Thank you, my Lord.

THE LATE M. THOMSON.

The Chief Justice—This is the first time on which this Court has met since the death of our friend, Mr. O. D. Thomson, and I am only very sorry that I did not intimate to the practitioners in this Court that it was my desire to say a few words. On behalf of the Court, the solicitors and the whole of the members of the profession, I am sure I am right in saying that we join in expressing our deepest sympathy with his widow, and deeply regret that Mr. Thomson has passed away from us.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The Bar and the profession generally echo the sentiments which have fallen from your Lordship of condolence and sympathy with the widow.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(PUISNE JUDGE)

A HOTEL RUNNER'S CLAIM.

The action was continued in which William Henry Brown claimed \$255.75, being as to salary \$60, 29.75 as to commission, and \$165 for wrongful dismissal, from Messrs. Dorabjee and Co., proprietors of the King Edward Hotel, Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Daniel for the defendants.

Mr. A. Gee, recalled, said to his knowledge the hotel never accepted as guest a woman known to belong to the unfortunate class. If the plaintiff brought a woman of that class to

the hotel and did not acquaint the manager of her status he would not be doing his duty.

Cross-examined—He had been manager for nine months. He knew a Mrs. Davis, but he did not know she belonged to the unfortunate class. There were often cases of that kind, that not knowing them such women were accepted as guests. Plaintiff never brought women there as lodgers.

The coxswain of the *King Edward* launch stated that plaintiff used the launch a little for other than hotel purposes; say once or twice a month. On one occasion he took out three ladies, one of whom plaintiff said was his sweetheart, to the American men-of-war in the harbour. Witness complained that the coal was placed under his care and he did not like the launch to be used for private purposes.

Cross-examined—He did not complain to the hotel. The master learned of it afterwards. Mr. Brown did not pay him for the coal he used on those occasions. On one occasion he gave witness \$2, but that was cumshaw. That was not sufficient to pay for the coals used.

Plaintiff, recalled, said the first intimation he had that his services were not appreciated by Mr. Dorabjee was when he received a lawyer's letter. He had an interview with Mr. Dorabjee in the presence of a clerk. Mr. Dorabjee said "I hear you have a man in your room?" Witness replied "I have." "Well," said Mr. Dorabjee "you can keep him there as long as you like but you will have to pay for him." Mr. Dorabjee said nothing then about his dismissal. On the day of his dismissal he had a conversation with Mr. Anderson, the barman, to whom he mentioned that a circus agent was staying in the hotel; Anderson got in a temper and said he could not stop there at \$5 a day. Witness said the office had given him that rate.

Mr. Daniel objected to the evidence.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said it showed there was a quarrel which might have accounted for his dismissal.

Plaintiff said his friend Lewis stayed in his room for seven days. He added that he had signed chits for some guests, but not for others.

By his Lordship—With regard to the box which had been lost for three days, he was told that if he wished to keep his position he would have to pay \$25 a month until the value of the box was made up. When it was lost he agreed to do so, but subsequently the box was found. In February he was asked by the manager to pay half the expenses of the inquiries and nothing more would be said.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said there was no allegation by the defendants that the plaintiff had misconducted himself or had been the worse of drink in their service. Taking the ladies out in the launch was conduct which his Lordship thought did not show sufficient consideration for the interests of his employers and that would have been a ground of dismissal. The plaintiff failed in his claim for damages. His Lordship entered judgment for the defendants on the counter claim for \$38.85 the amount of chits, and for \$5 the expense incurred by the hotel through plaintiff's friend having stayed in his room, while plaintiff obtained judgment for 60.

Wednesday, April 28th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT.)

CLAIM BY A BAK.

The International Banking Corporation claimed from the Tong Hing Shing firm of 249 Des Voeux Road Central \$3,000 and expenses due by defendants as acceptors of a bill of exchange dated 1st December, 1908, drawn by the Kwong Man Tai Wong Chi, payable to plaintiffs fifteen days after acceptance. The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for plaintiffs, but defendants did not enter an appearance.

The statement of claim was to the effect that on the 4th January 1909 the plaintiffs presented the bill to the defendants, who refused to pay the sum.

The defendants entered a defence in which they denied having at any time accepted the bill of exchange. The document presented was not a bill of exchange inasmuch as it did not

comply with the conditions of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance 1885.

Mr. Pollock said he was prepared to prove the allegations in the statement of claim.

His Lordship said he thought the defence raised a question of law.

Mr. Pollock replied that the only point they raised was, the denial that the document was a bill of exchange. The document was made out in two bills and the one in question was headed "First bill of exchange." This was a common form. Mr. Pollock added that the defendants did not appear to sustain the point they had raised.

The assistant compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Hongkong said he should regard the document as a bill of exchange.

His Lordship—I cannot help suggesting that the banks might invent Chinese forms for Chinese customers that would be a little more in accordance with the English forms. It would save many difficulties and would be convenient for all parties.

Mr. Pollock—It would be, my Lord, practically a translation of the English form.

His Lordship—And the Chinese could put in anything else they liked.

His Lordship gave judgment for the full amount claimed with costs.

Thursday, April 29th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

ADJUDICATED.

Re Chan Yue Shun, Mr. D'Almada e Castro appeared for the creditors and stated that the application was for the adjudication of the bankrupt and that the Official Receiver be appointed trustee of the property of the debtor. There had been a meeting of the creditors at which no resolution had been passed.

The application was granted.

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT.

Re heung Tsui Kwai, Mr. Goldring, who appeared for the petitioning creditor, said this was an application for the adjudication of the debtor as bankrupt. The liabilities amounted to \$30,000 and the assets to \$12,000. The act of bankruptcy was a notice suspending payment of debts. The notice was translated and read that debtor had no money and asked his creditors not to press their claims for money.

His Lordship expressed the opinion that that was not sufficient; he had not seen a notice like that before.

Mr. D'Almada said he appeared to oppose the bankruptcy. He was acting for Choy Kan, the plaintiff in an action in the Original Jurisdiction.

His Lordship wished to know what the assets were.

Mr. Goldring replied that there was a house.

The Official Receiver said the house was mortgaged and there was also a registered judgment for \$7,000.

Mr. Goldring said the assets would be about \$12,000. He was told that there was no mortgage on the house. However he would ask his Lordship to allow him to make further inquiries.

His Lordship thought the petitioning creditor had better go in the box and tell them what he knew.

Chan Kin Tong, the petitioning creditor, stated that he lent \$5,000 to the debtor and the interest due on this was \$2,350. Witness charged interest at the rate of one dollar per \$100 per month. The assets were composed of a house which he did not know was mortgaged. The liabilities, which he knew only from information, amounted to \$30,000.

Mr. d'Almada, who appeared for the judgment creditor in an original jurisdiction, questioned the petitioning creditor. Witness said he was a partner in the Ming Lee Chan firm a boarding house. Cheung Tsui Kwai had no interest in it. The money which witness lent to him was his own private moneys and not the moneys of the firm. The debtor got the stamped document from the stamp office.

Mr. d'Almada asked for the matter to be adjourned pending further inquiries. He thought this was only a friendly petition to oust his client from the fruits of his judgment. The debtor had stated that even if the judgment went against him he would still be solvent.

His Lordship said he would give Mr. d'Almada leave to move that the receiving order be set aside.

The Official Receiver said that he also objected because there were no assets.

The matter was adjourned.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER DINNER.

The officers and men of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps held their annual dinner at the head quarters of the company on Saturday night, Lieut.-Colonel Chapman presiding. He was supported by Captain Thompson, Captain Lammert, Captain Armstrong, Captain Forsyth, Lieutenants Northcote, Ross and Kennett. An excellent dinner was served and "The King" having been honoured tobacco was produced. Lieut.-Colonel Chapman proposed the toast of H.E. The Governor, who, in responding, congratulated the corps on its efficiency and promised to further its interests to the best of his ability. "The Guests" were also honoured, and Sir Henry Berkeley, responding, urged the citizens of Hongkong to become members of the Volunteer Corps. The toast "Our Commandant" followed, and was suitably acknowledged by Lieut.-Col. Chapman who strongly appealed to the Corps to maintain its efficiency, observing that it was all very well coming forward in time of war with enthusiasm, but in that event, the trained man was vastly superior to the untrained man.

Amongst the invited guests were Sir Henry Berkeley, Captains Park and Branch, and Messrs. George Grimble, W. A. Dowley, Robert Mitchell, Otto Kong Sing, F. Lammert, E. A. M. Williams, W. Clement Drew, H. F. Campbell, G. Moffat, W. J. Hansen, E. B. Ayris, F. Elphinstone and F. Nelson.

H.E. the Governor distributed the prizes to the winners of the shooting competitions as follows:—

No. 2 Coy. First Prize for gross aggregate—Sergt. E. A. Chapman. First nett score—Lieut. Andrews. Second prize, aggregate score, Corporal Crawford. Third prize, aggregate score, Gunner Catchick. Fourth prize aggregate score, Sergt. Crapnell.

No. 4 Company.—First aggregate score, Sergt.-Major Rodger. Second aggregate score, Gunner Barnett. Third aggregate score, Sergt. Grimshaw. First Range, Gunner Miller. Second Range, Gunner Young.

MINUTE BY THE GOVERNOR.

The following minute has been addressed by H. E. the Governor to "the principal employers and others"

It is my earnest desire that the Hongkong Volunteer Corps should both by its numbers and by its efficiency be worthy to rank as an integral part of the defensive force of this Colony.

With regard to numbers the total strength stands at only 285, and I take this opportunity of appealing to the leading British citizens in this Colony to do their utmost both directly as regards themselves and their employes and indirectly by their influence and the weight of their opinion to endeavour to increase this number to a figure more in proportion to the British manhood of the Colony. I hope that steps recently taken may result in an increase of the number of Government Officials who are Volunteers.

As regards efficiency, it has been my aim since I have been in Hongkong to secure for the Hongkong Volunteer Corps a recognised place in the scheme of defence of the Colony to impress upon the Community that the Corps exists for a serious purpose, involving sacrifices of no small extent, both upon the individuals composing it and upon their employers.

The exigencies of the time demand a real sacrifice, and I am myself inclined to deprecate the multiplication of artificial incentives to effort in the shape of Cups and Prizes. A limited number of expert marksmen is not sufficient; we require in addition a body of serious men imbued with the vital necessity of defending this place on the outbreak of war and efficiently trained by a prolonged sacrifice of well-earned leisure in peace time, so that they may take their place in the fighting ranks when necessity may arise. We are all aware that in modern conditions but little

time for preparation will be allowed when the crisis comes, and that the crisis itself will in all probability be sudden and unexpected. Those who have most stake in the Colony will be those who will lose most in case of a raid by hostile forces, and it is a measure of self-interest to do all that is possible to strengthen the defences.

In his report upon the Volunteer Corps for 1908-1909 the General Officer Commanding remarks as follows:—

"I recommend that future camps should be held in the New Territories for a week or eight days and that endeavours should be made to get employers to allow men to be present continuously for at least three or four days of that time. If such a camp were run on lines which bore some resemblance to service conditions an economy could be effected and the training improved."

Upon this the Commandant of the Corps observes:—

"Since the last camp I have been considering the possibilities of holding future camps in the New Territories, and see no insuperable obstacle other than the difficulty of members obtaining sufficient leave from their employment to enable them to attend the camp for a useful period. It is hardly to be expected that firms in a place like Hongkong could follow, to the full extent, the patriotic example of a large number of home firms who are giving Volunteers three weeks' leave each year to attend camp; but I see no reason why they should not follow this example to a modified extent, and am of opinion that an appeal from His Excellency the Governor to the various firms pointing out the vital importance to the Colony of an efficient and sufficient Volunteer Force would result in their being able to spare a portion of their Volunteer employees for half the week at a time. It would be impossible to hold the camp in the New Territories if the men had to return to their business in Hongkong during the day."

I appeal to you to render this proposal practicable by granting the requisite facilities to those in your employ, and I appeal to you also once more to do all in your power to increase the numbers of the Corps.

F. D. LUGARD,
Governor, &c.

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1909.

THE INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY OF HONGKONG.

At the annual general meeting of the Incorporated Law Society of Hongkong, held at the Supreme Court Library yesterday afternoon, the following report was submitted:—

The report of the committee for the year ending 31st December, 1908, set out that since the last general meeting the society has to record the retirement of Mr. Godfrey C. Master who has left the Colony. Mr. Master was the late President, and the society owed much to him in its infancy. An unhappy event deprived the society of another member in the late Mr. Reginald Harding, and they had been shocked to learn the untimely death of yet another member, in the late Mr. O. D. Thomson, one who was respected and held in esteem by all members of the profession. The committee expressed its deepest sympathy to his widow and family in their sad bereavement. The society was formed in 1907 in the belief, which had to some extent been justified, that it would prove to be of very considerable benefit to all members of the legal profession in the Colony inasmuch as it could properly be expected that all representations made by the committee, chosen by the members of the society, would be received and regarded with the consideration due to a body of men experienced in the ways, and as to the needs of the Colony, and having the interests of the profession and of their clients at heart. The necessity, or advisability, of the continued existence of a Law Society in this Colony was apparent. There were now, nearly 50 members of the legal profession enrolled as Solicitors, Attorneys and Proctors of the Supreme Court of Hongkong practising in the Colony, and it was obvious that these should continue to be a governing body formed

from such members for the purpose of protection of the character, status and interests of the solicitors practising in the Colony of Hongkong, the promotion of honourable practice, the settlement of disputed points of practice, which must necessarily arise, and the decision of all questions of professional usage on courtesy in conducting legal business of all kinds. And further for the consideration of all general questions affecting the interests of the profession at large, or the alteration or administration of the law. The accounts for the years ending 31st December, 1907, and 31st December, 1908, were before members. It would be seen that there was a credit balance at the bank up to the end of the year 1908 to the extent of \$258.96 which was in every way satisfactory. Every member of the legal profession should, if he had the interests of his profession at heart become a member of the society. At the meeting held on the 15th April last Mr. Hodgson was appointed Hon. Secretary of the Society by the committee and he expressed his willingness to act in that capacity. At the same meeting Mr. D. Wilkinson was chosen as Vice-President of the society, and he was a member of the committee. The other members of the committee for the past year were Mr. John Hastings, Mr. Scott Harston, Mr. H. W. Looker, Mr. Bowley and Mr. Daniel. Mr. Grist was appointed during Mr. Wilkinson's absence but he had now gone home. Mr. Deacon was appointed in the place of Mr. Looker during the latter's absence and Mr. Gedge in the place of Mr. G. C. C. Master. Mr. Bowley and Mr. Daniel retired this year and did not seek re-election, and therefore the members for the year at present were Messrs. C. D. Wilkinson (Vice-President), John Hastings, H. J. Gedge, J. Scott Harston, F. B. Deacon (until Mr. Looker's return). There remained two places to be filled, one to be a managing clerk and to be balloted for by the managing clerks present, and the other to be balloted for by all members.

Mr. GEDGE proposed, and Mr. HASTINGS seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts.

Carried unanimously.

On a ballot which succeeded the following solicitors were elected members of the society:—Messrs. H. L. Dennys, Sr., W. G. L. Shenton, Hing Kam Hing and R. Reader Harris.

Mr. H. L. Dennys Sr., was elected a member of committee, and Mr. P. W. Hodgson was elected in the stead of Mr. Daniel.

STEAMER ASHORE AT LINTIN.

On Monday morning the Hamburg-America Linie's steamer *Scandia*, inward bound from Europe, grounded at the southern end of Lintin, about 20 miles from Hongkong, during the fog. The second officer came ashore and reported the matter at the office, and subsequently the tug *David Gillies* and several lighters went out to her assistance.

The Japanese steamer *Soshu-maru* also reported the accident, the *Scandia* having signalled her to do so. Captain Sugi, of the *Soshu*, states that the shore thereabouts is "all rock," and he thinks the ship would be heavily damaged.

The steamer was refloated and towed to Hongkong on Thursday by the H.A.L. *Nicomedia* and the tug *David Gillies* arriving shortly after seven o'clock. As soon as possible the cargo will be discharged and the *Scandia* will be docked for repairs, which as far as can be ascertained at present, are not very extensive.

The new Bishop of Singapore, the Rev. C. J. Ferguson-Davie, has worked in India since 1899. After graduating at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in 1894, he went to Leeds Clergy school, passing thence in 1896 to the curacy of St. Paul's Preston. Three years later he became domestic chaplain to the Bishop of Lahore, and subsequently S.P.G. missionary at Rewari. In 1917 he removed to Rawal Pindi, his present station. When home on furlough in 1904 he won the King's Silver Medal at Bisley, being the only clergyman to have done so. Years ago he was a familiar figure at Bisley, and shot for Cambridge University and in various N.R.A. matches.

SATURDAY'S GYMKHANA.

PATRONS.

His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, C.B.; His Excellency Maj.-General R. G. Broadwood, C.B.; Rear-Admiral H. Lyon, R.N.

COMMITTEE.

The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club. (Ex-Officio)—The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., Messrs. C. H. Ross, J. A. Jupp, H. P. White, G. K. Hall, Brutton, John Paterson, and Major W. A. Eaton. Judge—Mr. C. H. Ross. Handicappers—Mr. J. A. Jupp and Major W. A. Eaton. Clerk of the scales—Messrs. H. P. White, and F. B. Deacon. Starter—Mr. H. J. Gedge. 2nd Starter—Mr. J. Paterson. Time Keeper—Mr. S. Sassoon. Hon. Sec. & Treasurer—Mr. C. Gordon Mackie.

The first meeting of the Hongkong Gymkhana Club was held at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon, and although the attendance was not very large the meeting proved a great success, the sport being excellent. Saturday was an ideal day for racing, the overcast sky obscuring the glare of the sun and cooling the atmosphere. The Band of the Buffs played appropriate selections of music during the afternoon, and business was, as usual, very brisk in the vicinity of the Cash Sweeps and the Pari Mutuel. The committee kept events well up to time, and fulfilled their manifold duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. Results of the different events follow:—

ONE MILE FLAT RACE.—For Subscription Griffins of Season 1908-09. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners of one race at 1909 Meeting 5 lbs. extra: two or more races 10 lbs. extra. Non-winning placed ponies allowed 2 lbs. Unplaced runners allowed 5 lbs. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lbs. Entrance fee \$5.00. 1st Prize: Presented. 2nd Prize: \$25.00. Entrance fees to go to Winner.

Mr D. L. M.'s Tamar, 151lbs	5lb overweight (Mr Gegg)	1
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Little Dot Rose	14lbs, 5lb allowance (Mr Mackie)	2
Mr Blank's Grey Back, 155lb.	5lbs allowance (Mr Morfey)	3
Mr M. M. Brice's Gambler, 148lb	5lbs allowance (Mr Brice)	0
Commodore H. Lyon's Swan, 155lb.	5lbs allowance (owner)	0
Mr C. E. Anton's Dunkery, 151lbs	5lb allowance (Mr Leefe)	0

A field of six faced the starter in the opening event, Tamar taking the lead and being closely followed by Little Dot Rose and Greyback. The order was the same until the incline was ascended, when the Rose challenged Tamar for premier position. The former pony led until the rock was passed, when Tamar once more drew into the ran and led past the winning post, Greyback running a good third. Time—2 min. 14 secs. The Pari Mutuel paid a dividend of \$10.20, while payments by the Cash Sweeps were, \$157.50 on the first pony; \$45 on the second, and \$22.50 on the third.

GYMKHANA STAKES.—Value \$100. Distance One Mile. For all China Ponies. Catch weights at 10 st. 6 lbs. Winners of an open race or open Griffin race 5 lbs. extra. Non-winning Subscription Griffins allowed 5 lbs. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lbs. A Cup called the Gymkhana Cup will be presented at the end of the Season to be won by the Pony scoring most marks in the races for the Gymkhana Stakes at the Gymkhana meetings during the season, counting 4 points for a first; 2 for a second; and 1 for a third, the benefit of marks already scored to pass with the Pony on a sale. Any winner of the race to carry 5 lbs. extra for each win in subsequent starts for the Race, but in the event of a pony carrying the penalty not winning, 2 lbs. to be deducted next time he starts. Such 2 lbs. to remain deducted until he wins again when he will carry the full Penalties without deduction. Penalties accumulative up to 15 lbs. Entrance fee \$5. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Half entrance fees to go to winner.)

Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Garth, 141 lbs.	5lbs allowance (Mr Mackie)	1
Mr Dryasdu's Triad, 146 lbs	(Mr. Dupree)	2
Messrs Leah and Moore's Sportsman, (late Volga) 146 lbs, 5lbs allowance (Mr Moore)		3
Mr L. K. Leeson's Soudan, 156 lbs,	10 lbs overweight (Mr Leeson)	0
Mr L. K. Leeson's Seafoam, 155 lbs,	4 lbs overweight (Mr Gegg)	0
Mr Moregold's Backstay, 143 lbs,	3lbs allowance (Mr Grant)	0

The field of six got a good start, Garth being alongside the rail and racing neck and neck with Sportsman in the front, with Backstay well up in third position. Passing Bowington Garth was still in front Sportsman being second, Triad third and Seafoam fourth. Ascending the incline, Seafoam challenged Triad, but gave way before the rock was passed. Garth had a lead of several lengths approaching the straight, where the rider of Backstay missed his seat and the pony concluded the race alone. An excellent race home between Garth and Triad was witnessed, the former winning by a neck. Sportsman ran a fair third. Time—2 min. 7 secs. The Pari mutuel paid a dividend of \$1.60. Cash Sweep payments being: first pony, \$368.55; second, \$105.30; third, \$52.65.

TENT PEGGING IN SECTIONS OF THREE.—

Open to teams, mounted on China Ponies, and composed of three men, representing any recognized unit or club in the Colony. Three small cups to be presented to the winning team at each competition and at the conclusion of the season a Trophy will be given to the team which scores the highest aggregate of points all meetings included. In competing for the small cups a competitor need not necessarily represent the same unit or club on each and every occasion, but if competing for the aggregate trophy he can only represent one unit or one club during the season, that is to say he must continue to compete for the unit or club first selected by him and for no other. To provide for sickness, absence from the Colony, or for improvement of a team, new members may from time to time be introduced into a team, but in order to win the aggregate Trophy two at least of the Members composing the winning team must have competed in not less than three competitions.

Points will be awarded as follows:—

3 for each carry, say per team.	9 points
or 2 for a carry under 20 yards,	
or 1 for a touch.	
3 for speed	3
3 for style	3
	15

NOTE.—Style means the proper and workmanlike handling of spears and the synchronous working of a team. Points will be deducted from a team should the Judge observe any member carrying his spear in a dangerous and unsportsmanlike manner.

The Judges will deduct points if in their opinion a team be moving at too slow a pace.

R.A.—"A" Team—Col. Chamier, Capt. Brierley, Capt. Finch.	0
"B" Team—Capt. Climo, Capt. Leah, Mr. Moore.	0
The "Buffs."—"A" Team—Major Eaton, Mr. Potter, Mr. Green.	3
"B" Team—Capt. Barker, Mr. Crookenden, Mr. Wedd.	2
13th Rajputs—Capt. Corbett, Mr. Liepmann, Mr. Marsh.	0

THE HONGKONG MOUNTED TROOP:—

"A" Team—Lieut. Ross, Trooper Gedge, Trooper Dupree.	1
"B" Team—Sergt. Blason, Trooper Maxwell, Trooper McIlwraith.	0

After some very good exhibitions only half a point lay between the "A" team of the Hongkong mounted Troop and the "B" team of the Buffs, and the Judges decided to allow the competitors another run. After two ties the event ended in favour of the Troopers who secured two carries and a touch, to one carry gained by the Buffs "B" team. The Cash Sweeps paid \$289.80 on the winning team; \$82.80 on the second; and \$41.40 on the third team.

QUARTERS OF A MILE FLAT RACE.—REEH.

For Subscription Griffins of any Season which

have never won an official race. Weight for inches as per scale. Unplaced runners allowed 3 lbs. To be ridden by Jockeys who have kongw Shanghai or Tientsin. Entrance fee not, on more than two official races in Hongkong. First Prize: Presented. 2nd Prize: \$25.00. (Entrance fees to go to winner.)

Admiral Lambton's Kamrah, 155 lbs.	(Mr Mackie)	1
Mr H. G. Moore's Lyemun, 155 lbs,	(Owner)	2
Mr F. B. Deacon's Butcher, 152 lbs,	(Owner)	3
Mr C. E. Anton's Dunkerry, 158 lbs	(Mr Leefe)	0
Capt. S. Barker's Shaun Aboo, 165 lbs,	13 lbs overweight (Owner)	0
Mr M. M. Brice's Gun Duck, 158 lbs,	(Owner)	0
Mr D. L. M.'s Tamar, 156 lbs, 4 lbs,	overweight (Mr Leah)	0
Mr K. K.'s Little Nemo, 149 lbs,	(Mr Klimanek)	0

Lyemun sprang into the lead at the start, being closely followed by Tamar, the rest of the field following in close order. Beyond the football stand, Lyemun and Tamar raced neck and neck several lengths ahead of the field, but were overhauled by Kamrah in the dash up the incline. Passing the village Kamrah improved his position, while Butcher drew up on the foremost three. In the straight, Kamrah took the lead and passed the Judges box an easy winner, Lyemun being second and Butcher third. Time—1 min 37-1/5 secs. The Pari mutuel paid a dividend of \$6.50, Cash sweep payments being \$434.70 on Kamrah, \$124.20 on Lyemun; and \$62.10 on Butcher.

WELTER RACE. HALF A MILE.—For all China Pony Hacks or Polo Ponies. Catch Weights 13 stone. Open to Members of Jockey and/or Polo Clubs, also members of both Services. Entrance fee \$5. First Prize: Presented. 2nd Prize: \$25.00. (Entrance fees to go to winner.)

Major H. Findlay's Billy 182 lbs	(Owner)	1
Mr C. E. G. Davidson's Seraph, 182 lbs	(Mr Dupree)	2
Dr J. W. Noble's Double Zero	182 lbs (Mr Gegg)	3
Captain G. T. Brierley's Catalan Bay	182 lbs (Owner)	0
Major H. Findlay's Polo Stick	182 lbs (Mr Crookenden)	0
Mr K. K.'s Droschkengaul 182 lbs	(Mr Kiemanek)	0
Mr H. G. Moore's Banksia Rose 182 lbs	(Mr Marsh)	0

The field got away together with the exception of Droschkengaul, who was left at the post. Billy and Seraph made the pace throughout, being challenged in the straight by Double Zero. The latter pony, however, lacked the necessary pace, and failed to pass the leaders. The race home was between Billy and Seraph, the former winning by a little more than a neck. Time—1 min. 4 secs. The dividend paid by the Pari Mutuel was, \$33.10. Cash Sweep payments were: \$425.25 first pony; \$121.50 second; and \$60.75 third.

ONE AND A QUARTER MILE FLAT RACE. HANDICAP.—For all China Ponies. Entrance fee \$5. First Prize: Presented. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner.)

Hon. Mr. F. H. May's Astral, 154 lbs	(owner)	1
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Garth, 150 lbs	(Mr Mackie)	2
Mr L. M. Leeson's Seafoam 161 lbs	(Mr Gegg)	3
Mr Blank's Grey back, 145 lbs	(Mr Morfey)	0
Capt. G. T. Brierley's Sidier Dhu 159 lbs	9 lbs overweight (owner)	0
Major W. A. Eaton's Game Chick 145 lbs	(Mr Dupree)	0
Major W. A. Eaton's Vine, 145 lbs	(Mr Brice)	0
Major H. Findlay's Shandygaff, 148 lbs	9 lbs overweight (owner)	0
Major H. Findlay's White bait, 165 lbs	25 lbs overweight (owner)	0
Mr K. K.'s Highland Heather 147 lb	11 lbs overweight, (r Klimanek)	0
Messrs Leah & Moore's Sportsman late Volga, 154 lb (Mr Moore)		0
Mr Moregold's Backstay 147 lbs (Mr Grant)		0

The mile and a quarter brought forth the largest field of starters for the day, twelve. The shades of evening were closing in as the race was run. Passing the Grandstand for the first time Gambler was in the van, Vine being second and Sidier Dhu third. Ascending the incline Gambler was partnered by Garth, the latter pony emerging from the rock in premier position and leading into the straight. There, Astral and Seafoam, who had been lying in good positions throughout, were persuaded to make the pace. Astral promptly responded, and the colours of the Hon. Mr. May passed the winning post about a length ahead of Garth, Seafoam running a good third. Time—2 min. 44 4/5 secs. Astral paid a dividend of \$14.50 in the Pari Mutuel; in the Cash Sweeps his drawer received \$418.95. Garth paid \$119.70; and Seafoam \$59.85.

THE TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

Miss Ella Rowe will to-day to present the prizes won in the recent Racquets and Tennis Tournaments to the following:—

RACQUETS SINGLE HANDICAP,—H. Hancock, (Scr.)

RACQUETS DOUBLE—HANDICAP—R. and H. Hancock, (Scr.)

CHAMPIONSHIP,—H. Hancock, (Scr.)

MEMO.—The holder, R. Hancock, being absent from the Colony, the runner-up in the competition, H. Hancock, becomes the champion for 1909.

SINGLE HANDICAP "A" CLASS.

C. A. Carr (owes 30/4) Winner
Capt. G. T. Brierley, R.A., (owes 15/3) Runner up

SINGLE HANDICAP "B" CLASS.

C. C. Hickling (owes 30) Winner
W. G. Worcester (owes 30) Runner up

DOUBLES HANDICAP "A" CLASS.

F. A. Whyte owes 30/2 Winners
E. E. Byrne, 105th Mahs. }
B. O. Hutchison } rec. 3/6 Runners up
T. H. King }

DOUBLES HANDICAP "B" CLASS.

C. C. Hickling owe 15... Winners.
E. C. Hagen }
D. K. Anderson (Buffs) } owe 4/6 Runners up
R. P. Webb (Buffs) }

PROFESSIONAL PAIRS.

Capt. H. M. Beasley, R.A. } Army ... Winners.
E. E. Byrne, 105th Mahs. }
T. E. Pearce } Merchants Runners up
P. H. Klimanek }

CHAMPIONSHIP.

Capt. H. M. Beasley R.A., Winner
H. Hancock Runner up

Owing to the absence of Capt. Beasley the match with the 1908 Champion falls through and the Chater Challenge Cup will therefore be returned to Mr. C. A. Carr to hold again until the 1910 Tournament.

HONGKONG SCHOOLS ATHLETIC SPORTS

On Monday was a gala day with the school children of the Colony, the annual athletic sports meeting of the combined schools being held on the race course, kindly lent by the committee of the Jockey Club for the occasion. The weather was a trifle on the warm side, but it was no doubt the inviting day which accounted for the very large attendance. There was a big programme to be carried through, and as there were numerous entrants in all events, the committee were kept busy throughout the day. Music was supplied by the band of the 13th Rajputs under the baton of Bandmaster Coke. The gold medal presented for the champion athlete of the meeting was won by H. E. Markar.

At the conclusion of the sport spectators and competitors assembled in the grandstand, where Mr. Brawn asked Mrs. Lander to present the prizes.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP, before his wife proceeded with her task, congratulated the committee on the success of the meeting. On looking through the programme he found that there were over one thousand entries, one event bringing forward as many as 80 competitors. He thought this was a very good sign. Another glance at the programme showed him that as many as nine nationalities competed. This was

another good sign, because it taught the different people to understand one another. His Lordship then called upon his wife to proceed with her task, the call being a signal for general applause.

Mrs. Lander distributed the prizes to successful competitors, and when the last prize was presented, was accorded three ringing cheers.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

PRESENTATION OF CUP.

At a meeting of the Hongkong Football League held at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms on Tuesday the *Hongkong Daily Press* Cup was formally handed over to the League, and subsequently presented by Mr. B. A. Hale, the managing editor, to the Captain of the Buffs.

Mr. HALE, in handing the cup over to the League, referred to the success which had attended the inauguration of the League, and asked Mr. Storrie as secretary of the League to accept the temporary custody of the cup.

Mr. STORRIE, in accepting the cup, expressed the indebtedness of the League to the Press for the support it had given the League and especially the *Hongkong Daily Press* for having given that handsome trophy.

Mr. HALE then presented the cup to the Captain of the Buffs whom he congratulated on their good sporting record and afterwards presented the silver medals given by the League to the members of the winning team.

Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

THE JAPAN SUGAR COMPANY.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, April 15th.

The papers are daily giving full particulars of the arrests made in connection with the failure of the Dai Nippon Seito Kaisha, and there is now every indication that those responsible for the suspension of this prominent company will be brought to justice and punished as they deserve.

The revelations of the methods by which the directors of this company declared the usual 15 per cent per annum dividend, when in reality the company was in a disastrous condition, formed one of the New Year greetings for the Japanese investor, and since then a series of exposures have taken place. No proceedings, however, were taken by the public prosecutors and it was beginning to be feared that the criminals would be allowed to escape when action was suddenly instituted, and at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 11, the houses of several of the directors were searched and arrests made. The legal machinery, it appears, has been set in motion against the will of the authorities by a shareholder charging certain of the directors with the misappropriation of 850,000 yen. On this complaint the public prosecutors were compelled to take action, while it is generally believed the Government desired in view of the prominence of the company to effect an adjustment, if possible, without resort to the courts. One or two directors are now in prison awaiting trial, others are closely watched by the police and practically prisoners, while many other persons, former officials of the company and members of the Diet, supposed to have been bribed, are in the position of suspects liable to be sent to prison at any moment. These proceedings are taken on the evidence of documents seized at the offices of the company and at the private residences of those concerned in Tokyo and Osaka.

The charges against the accused are the most flagrant that can be conceived—falsifying entries in the books, bribing candidates for the Diet during the elections last year, borrowing the company's money with the company's shares as security, declaring dividends when some four million yen was due to the Customs for sugar duty; they are of such a nature that ultimate exposure becomes certain and can only be possible where corruption is widespread and the fear of the law reduced to a minimum. And the confidence in this respect of the fraudulent directors appears to be well

founded, for, but for the independent and determined action of the prosecuting shareholder the iniquities of these directors would have been overlooked in the interest of the company's reputation and rehabilitation. They would be no longer connected with the company, but would be free men, neither socially nor legally punished, and at liberty to carry on their speculations probably to the ruin of shareholders less able to bear loss than the shareholders of the great sugar company.

The Japanese press hails the recent developments with the greatest satisfaction, and altogether it is a healthful sign for the future of Japanese credit that the press and public are taking such a determined stand on the side of justice. Perhaps it might be objected that this is only natural in the circumstances, but it is really creditable of the press to take up a definite attitude while the authorities of the law were undecided. But for the initiative of a shareholder it is probable that no action would ever have been taken with the object of punishing the directors for a breach of the laws. The Government, a creditor to the company in the sum of four million yen, was and is inclined to overlook the criminal aspect of the case with the object of re-establishing the company as a going concern and thus ultimately making good all loss. Here the authorities appear to be seriously at fault, for the natural effect of their policy would be disastrous to the morality and credit of the Japanese, while severe punishment of the guilty will have a most wholesome effect, of far greater value in the long run than anything to be saved by hushing matters up. In this connection it is interesting to note that foreign influence has apparently been at work in bringing matters to the present head. The sugar company was one of the gilt-edged investments, and foreigners were largely interested. Among the heavy shareholders, according to the press reports, is the British ambassador at Tokyo and members of the Embassy, and it is alleged that Sir Claude MacDonald urged on the Premier the necessity of taking action against the directors for the good of Japan's credit. The Embassy has denied this report, but it is probably more than half true, if Sir Claude is a shareholder, for a man in a position of influence could hardly refrain from using his influence in the right direction in such extraordinary circumstances, although, technically, it might be a very undiplomatic thing to do.

All the facts reported up to date regarding the Dai Nippon Seito Kaisha go to show the insecurity of the shareholder in Japan under the present administration of the law, which in commercial matters is lax in the extreme. This is due to the nation's inexperience and also to the national temperament, but the remedy for the defects will be hastened by such examples of commercial mismanagement as that of the sugar company, providing the law is vindicated to the full in this case. Never before has the attention of the Japanese public been so concentrated on commercial matters, the result of a series of company frauds occurring at a time of acute trade depression. Hitherto the attitude of the shareholder has been one of blind obedience, but he is now beginning to realise that he also is partly responsible for the situation, that he has in the past appointed the autocratic director and the useless auditor and adviser; and with his awakening we may anticipate an end to the corruption and mismanagement in public companies such as are revealed in the case of the Dai Nippon Seito Kaisha.

GERMANY AND KIAOCHAU.

In the Budget Committee of the Reichstag on the 26th ult. Admiral von Tirpitz defended the estimates for Kiaochau, and as in previous years condemned the idea of an evacuation of what a Centre Party Deputy described as the Potsdam of East Asia. He felt sure that pessimists would soon be silenced.

Notwithstanding the economic depression, the revenue of Tsing-tau had risen by \$40,000 (about £3,500), while the revenue of Hongkong had fallen by \$200,000 (about £17,500). Shipping and railway figures were advancing, coal exports were being multiplied, and industry was expanding. Admiral von Tirpitz refused to compare Kiaochau with Wei-hai-wei; Hongkong afforded the only parallel.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Chinese papers in the North report that a foreigner has put a scheme before the Chinese Government for the establishment of a steamer service on the Yellow River. The scheme includes an undertaking to repair the embankments of the Yellow River from time to time.

The Kochien Transportation and Tow Boat Co. is understood to be sending some of its tugs and lighters to Hankow with a view to starting business there. The Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company's tug *Samson* has taken sixteen lighters to Hankow, having an aggregate tonnage of between 3,500, and 3,000, which constitutes a record for towage on the Yangtze.

The new N.Y.K. steamer *Kitano-maru*, just built at the Mitsu Bishi Yard, Nagasaki, developed a maximum speed of 17.266 knots and an average of 17.20 knots during an official trial trip. Compared with her sister-ship, the *Atsuta-maru*, the speed of the new steamer was 0.193 knots higher. The vessel is expected to arrive at Yokohama not later than the 7th May.

The Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have published a denial of the rumour which has been circulating in the Japanese press that the Company suffered a heavy loss in the last half year, ending 31st March. The *Jiji*, in which this denial is published, gives currency in the same issue to a rumour that in consequence of the heavy loss sustained by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the Government authorities have suggested a combine of the N.Y.K. and T.K.K., and that in case the former consents to do so, the proposed amalgamation of the two steamship companies will be effected in the near future.

Mr. Asano, President of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, interviewed in Nagasaki, said that the *Tenyo-maru's* sister-ship will be completed in 1910. A cargo-boat of 1,900 tons, now in course of building at Nagasaki, will undergo a trial run next autumn. The number of the San Francisco liners of the Company will then be increased to six and that of the South American liners to four, these calling at Nagasaki in addition to Kobe and Yokohama.

The tonnage of Japanese steamers which have been lying idle since last winter once reached about 90,000, but has now decreased by about 50 per cent., namely to some 51,500, the number of vessels being 25. This is due to the restoration of coal transportation, and to the reopening of timber exportation from the Hokkaido and of the North China service.

The fourth general meeting of the Japan-Chinese Steamship Company is to be held at the end of May, when the business report for this term is to be submitted. It is said by Japanese papers that no dividend will be declared, as the business has not been favourable on account of the decrease of water in the Yangtzekiang, coupled with the severe competition of the British, German, French and Chinese steamships.

The Standard Oil Company's full-rigged ship *King George*, reached Stapleton, U.S.A., on February 29th, 134 days out from Hongkong. Captain Tucker was ill with what was believed to be beri-beri, and he was removed to the Marine Hospital on Staten Island. One of the crew, it is stated, had complained of pains in his ankles before the ship left Hongkong and he died in the Indian Ocean. Others of the crew also suffered from the disease, but it was still an open question at the date of the latest reports whether the disease was beri-beri or a form of scurvy.

Japan papers by yesterday's mail mention with regard to the British steamer *Indrani* which recently went ashore on the island of Mushima, in the Inland Sea, that an examination of the bottom has revealed near the bow of the vessel a large gash nearly twenty feet in length, caused through the steamer grinding on the sharp rocks as she went ashore. Divers were busy at work patching up the broken plates, and the vessel will be thoroughly overhauled on her arrival at Kobe. *Mushima the Chronicle* says

is a very small island without any inhabitants. A promontory juts out to the southward, and it was near the end of this that the *Indrani* went ashore. So long as the fine weather lasts the vessel is in no danger.

A well-known skipper on the China coast has just retired from active service after thirty-four years service with the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company. We refer to Captain J. Warwick. In order to fittingly mark the esteem in which he is held by his sea-faring and shore friends, Captain Warwick just prior to his departure from Shanghai was entertained at the Masonic Club and presented with a magnificently-fitted suit case. Captain J. P. Lowe, who made the presentation, took advantage of the opportunity to wish their departing friend a pleasant journey home and many years of enjoyment and health amid the bracing air of Hartlepool. Captain Lowe also expressed the hope that Captain Warwick would find time in the future to visit his old friends again.

After several disappointing results, the endeavours to raise the sunken steamer *Kalomo* at Singapore have crowned with the success which is the reward of persistent effort. The ship may now be said to be practically salvaged, though there is a great deal more work to be done before she can be thoroughly examined. The *Kalomo* caught fire on December 16 and was to have left Singapore the following day for Cebu, Manila, Swatow and Japan. She was lately commanded by Capt. R. Linklater, who took charge when she was launched last year by Messrs. R. Duncan and Company Ltd., at Port Glasgow. She is one of the American-Manchurian liners, for whom Messrs. Bucknall Bros. are managers, and Messrs. McVister and Co. are agents at Singapore. The ship has a register of 5,019 tons, and is 400ft. long, 52ft. 3in. broad and 20ft. 1in. deep. She was built with a deck and spar deck, both steel, and has a deep framing. The vessel was engined by Messrs. Ranken and Blackmore, of Greenock, the machinery including triple expansion engines, three cylinders 28in. 45in. and 75in.—51in. The ship is registered at London, and flies the British flag and is classed 100 A1. at Lloyd's.

INDIA'S OPIUM POLICY.

The full introductory Budget Statement by the Hon. Sir Guy Fleetwood-Wilson, is now to hand. Paragraph 32, relating to the Indian Government's Opium policy has an interest for readers in China. It states:—

Our Opium policy in the coming year will be in consistent adherence to our promise to China, and our exports will again be reduced by ten per cent. The very unsettled prospects of the industry, the repeated alarms of local monopolies in China and the speculative character of much of the Malwa trade, make it very difficult to forecast our receipts. We intend however to sell 42,300 chests of Bengal opium during the financial year, for which we assume an average price of Rs. 1,350 a chest. In Malwa we surmise that between 8,000 to 9,000 chests will pay pass duty in preparation for the shipments of 1911. The net result is a very heavy drop of £1,468,200, in total receipts as compared with the artificially inflated income of the current year. For the future the position remains as described by Sir Edward Baker in last year's Financial Statement. We continue to reduce our exports until 1910, when the whole question will be re-examined with reference to the progress which China has made in its reforms. While bearing evidence to the strength of a genuine anti-opium movement in certain classes of Chinese society, the reports which we receive are conflicting as regards the curtailment of cultivation and production in China. The matter however has been under the enquiry of the International Commission which sat at Shanghai last month, and at which the interests of India were represented by Mr. J. B. Brunyate. The proceedings of the Commission have not yet reached the Government of India; but in the meanwhile it is well that we should be prepared, as far as possible, for the possibility of further losses in our opium revenue. Fortunately there is some hope that the change will

not affect the landed interest in Bengal and the United Provinces so seriously as at one time we feared. The profits of other high cropping show some tendency to oust the poppy, especially in Behar, and a large contraction in area seems practicable without very grave detriment to rural well-being. For the next poppy season accordingly we are arranging to license a maximum of 600,000 bighas—a very material reduction from the 900,000 odd bighas which were cultivated only three years ago, when this question first arose. In parts at least of the native territory where Malwa opium is grown, the problem of the falling China trade is a more difficult one, and it is now engaging our sympathetic attention.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

ESTIMATED REVENUE OF CHINA.

Peking, April 27th.
The Board of Finance has estimated that the revenue for the current year will amount to Taels 150,000,000.

RETRENCHMENT.

Peking, April 27th.
The Peking Government intends to abolish the posts of Tartar General and Vice Tartar General of the various provinces.

THE BOXER INDEMNITY.

PAYMENT OF FURTHER INSTALMENTS POSTPONED.

Peking, April 28th.
at a meeting of Foreign Ministers held at the United States Embassy, it was unanimously agreed that China should defer the payment of the remaining instalments of the Boxer Indemnity for some years, in order to enable her to carry on the work of reform.

AIRSHIPS IN JAPAN.

It is a common belief to-day that great wars of the future will be waged in the air rather than on land and sea; and every Power seems intent upon the invention and construction of really efficient aeroplanes for warlike purposes. The *Japan Times* is therefore exceedingly gratified to learn that a new and nearly perfect specimen of the aeroplane has recently been invented, finished and patented by Mr. Isaburo Yamada, whose name is not unfamiliar on account of the already meritorious services in connection with the aeroplane. The necessity of possessing truly efficient aeroplanes for fighting purposes was realised in Japan during the Chino-Japan war, and it was at this time that Major General Furukawa entrusted Mr. Yamada with part of the work in connection with the building of airships for the peculiar use of the Japanese army. Mr. Yamada steadily and diligently fought his way in discharging the important commission entrusted to him. His long and painstaking endeavours were finally crowned with victory which was, as the world knows, amply turned to account in the late Manchurian campaign. Particularly in the battles of Port Arthur Mr. Yamada's aeroplane rendered invaluable services in reconnoitring work, but he was by no means satisfied with the result won, neither is his airship such as might be called perfect. He doubled his energy and faithfully kept on working at the airship, till at length he has succeeded in innovating a type of aeroplane which may, without flattery, be well termed as the nearest approach to perfection. The "safe and free airship" is the name by which his latest production has been patented. Though the particulars of the new vessel have not as yet been published its most prominent features are said to be remarkable freedom and safety with which it can manoeuvre in the air. Along with this splendid invention Mr. Yamada has turned out what he calls an airship destroyer, which though comparatively small in size is so swift in motion that it serves in the air a duty similar to that of the torpedo boat on the sea.

SHIPPING LEGISLATION AT SINGAPORE.

The Unofficial members of the Legislative Council last week, the *Singapore Free Press* says, struck a somewhat interesting line of legislation with regard to shipping. In committee on the Merchant Shipping Bill they came to section 15 which prescribes that every British ship, carrying passengers or not, when going to sea, shall carry a certain complement of certificated officers. But in the case of foreign ships, only passenger ships shall come under the operation of the rules which prescribe a certain complement of certificated officers. The point of the discussion is of course, that there should be made no distinction between British and foreign ship leaving our ports—that if one has to carry a certain complement of certificated officers, so ought the other. The Government position, as set forth by Mr. Napier, the Attorney General, is that if a ship does not carry passengers, our port authorities should not interfere in what might be called her internal economy. That is the view the Home authorities have taken. It is the recognised duty of the port whence the vessel sails to guard passengers from leaving in ill-found ships. And the learned adviser of Government pointed out that the local Government could hardly be expected to accept a principle of interference with foreign vessels using the port which the Home authorities did not exercise. The Unofficial members stuck to their position, that there ought to be no difference made between British and foreign ships; that if one should not leave the port except under certain conditions, neither should the other. Their opposition was of course without effect on the passage of the section, which was carried by the Official majority of seven to six, deciding not to go outside the principle adopted by the Home authorities.

The *Straits Times*, commenting on the question says:—"We have been most impressed, however, by the unanimous vote of the unofficial members in favour of extending to all ships doing business at ports in the Straits Settlements, the rules which apply to British ships, and which do undoubtedly increase the working costs of the latter. This vote of the unofficial members seems to us to be based upon a somewhat serious misapprehension of the nature of our ports. In the interests of safety and of humanity the Imperial Government has made certain regulations which apply to all ships trading under the British flag, and we have not a word to say against these regulations although it is undoubtedly true that their observance does place our countrymen at a certain disadvantage in competing with some other countries. We are content to believe that the gain outweighs the advantage. We hold most firmly that it would be simple justice to British shipowners to require the observance of identical regulation by all ships trading with British home ports. The reason for this opinion is that Great Britain is importing and exporting directly on an enormous scale. She cannot be ignored by any company of shipowners which is anxious to have a share in world's trade. If she makes regulations applicable to foreign equally with her own ships, the foreigners will conform to them—must conform—in order to have a share of her business. Therefore, by unification of shipping laws she would not only protect her own shipowners against what in other connections would be described as sweated competition, but might do something also to raise the standard of efficiency and of comfort in the mercantile fleets of the whole world.

But the point we wish to raise is whether the ports in these Colonies are in a position comparable to that of the United Kingdom. We think not. Deduct from the total trade of Penang, for instance, that portion which represents transshipment business and the remainder is almost insignificant. Already we have had experience of the slight influences which suffice to send parts of our entreport business elsewhere. It is said that the charges made by the Shipping Conference as far back as 1902 "contributed to the success, if they were not primarily responsible for the establishment of new trade routes to which has been diverted trade that formerly came to this Colony." If that is correct—and we believe that every unofficial member of the

Legislative Council would cordially endorse the statement—there appears to be very good reasons for supposing that the imposition of regulations of a more drastic character than ports under the control of other countries recognise would have the effect of driving a great deal more of the entreport business away from Singapore. We desire that Singapore should be a free port in the most comprehensive sense of the term. There is no real hardship in locally re-enacting regulations which are practically applicable already to all ships sailing under our flag. We lose little or nothing by doing so, and even if we did there would be a certain obligation upon us to conform to the safety and humanitarian standards of the mother country. But why should we inquire into other people's business to our own loss and detriment? If German, French, Dutch, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, &c., &c., have standards which differ materially from our own, is it our business to poke our noses into their affairs and tell them to live upon a higher level? No doubt the view of the unofficial members in the course they took on Monday was inspired by a belief that the change they proposed was necessary in order to give our own shipping a fairer chance. In a mild sort of way they were pursuing the protectionist line of policy. And we sympathise with their object though we doubt the prudence of its practical application. If we believed that the effect here would be the same as we have no doubt it would be in the United Kingdom, then our warmest support would be given to their suggestions. But we are persuaded that regulations of a more irksome kind than they are accustomed to in their own ports, or in the ports of other foreign countries, would result simply in the diversion of considerable trade to places which are in keen rivalry with Singapore and Penang. Therefore, we believe that the official vote on Monday and the attitude of caution it represents is best for the interests of the Colony. Gradually other countries are raising their shipping law standards to the British level, and we welcome all such signs that international competition is moving towards an equitable basis. But we are not altruistic enough to urge that we should risk injury to ourselves from a desire to increase the wholesome tendency."

FORMOSA PRISONERS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

The Tainan correspondent of the *Japan Chronicle* writes:—

At present in Tainan prison the prisoners number 911. The following figures show that crimes in Formosa are somewhat similar to those in other countries:—

Thieves	202	Arson	18
Murder	79	Forgery	17
Assault	73	Opium	
Highway Robbery	26	Infanticide	469
Adultery	26	Life sentences	

Of these 862 are men and 49 women. The prisoners are engaged in useful work such as making soldiers' uniforms, belts, and boots, furniture, bamboo wicker-work, bricks, tiles, panama hats &c. Apart from the barbarous beatings to which accused but unconvicted persons are sometimes subjected in order to make them confess, one can hardly think of better arrangements for Chinese prisoners than those existing in Formosa. As the visitor passes along the clean, comfortable, and well-arranged wards, he is inclined to think that a considerable number of the occupants have quarters much superior to anything they ever had at home. It is a fact, however, that some of these prisoners are beaten so unmercifully that the flesh sloughs off, and they have been known to die a few hours after the operation.

[Our Japan contemporaries who have been holding the flogging of criminals in this colony up to reprobation might like to know that floggings are not administered in this fashion in Hongkong—Ed. H.D.P.]

Mr. J. E. Olesen, Commissioner of Customs at Foochow, is transferred to Canton. His successor at Foochow is Mr. Smollet-Campbell, who, with his wife and family, has already arrived.

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

DR. GEIL'S EXPLORATIONS.

The following are among the particulars received by Reuter's Agency from Dr. W. Edgar Geil of an interesting journey he has concluded along the whole length of the Great Wall of China.

Discussing his expedition, Dr. Geil said: "This is, so far as I know, the first occasion on which such a journey has been made. My object was not only to explore the whole length of the Great Wall, but also to make botanical and zoological collections, and to be able to compare the present conditions of China with that existing when I crossed that Empire six years ago. I left Philadelphia a year ago and proceeded to Peking, where I completed the arrangements for my long trip from the Yellow Sea to Tibet via the Great Wall. My party, which during part of the journey numbered 20 persons, included scientists, interpreters, and educated Chinese. Travelling on mountain mules, we followed the Wall for a distance of approximately 1,800 miles, starting at the seashore at Shanhaikwan and finishing at Kiyukun, on the Nan-Shan range on the northern border of Tibet. We found roughly 200 miles of the Great Wall so far unmapped. This section is a loop wall running from the east and west line of the Great Wall near the city of Liang-Chan. The newly-discovered loop runs from a point west of Sining south to the Yellow River near the city of Ho, where are the remains of the gateway to Langchao. On the greater portion of this section no masonry now remains, but there are massive towers of earthen core. I am satisfied as a result of my investigation that there are at least ten great walls apart from that which is known as the Great Wall of China."

Reciting some of his experiences, Dr. Geil said: "Parts of the journey were very hard owing to the altitude. For hundred of miles we traversed a mountainous land, the ground in many places being so precipitous that we had to hold on by our mules' tails. In some of the remotest parts the people had never before seen white men. At one point we heard of a race of Chinese pigmies, and the investigations I was enabled to make tended to confirm the reports we received. It is said that the ancestors of these people, who live in the mountains, were driven there when the Wall was building, having escaped to avoid compulsory work on the Wall. The descendants have lived in these mountains for 20 centuries, and are to-day wild creatures covered with hair. We had no difficulties with the natives anywhere except in the neighbourhood of Tibet, where we found the people suspicious, and we did not remain longer than was absolutely necessary for the purpose of our investigations. During the trip I was enabled to spend some time in investigating the mound of Chin near Sian Fu—the burial place of the originator of the Great Wall—to which so far not much attention has been given. I did everything except go inside, which I found to be impossible owing to the superstition of the people. It is an enormous mound of 918 acres surrounded by ruined walls. We were told that there was beneath a subterranean palace connected by a long tunnel with the mountains."

In conclusion Dr. Geil said: "Some of the changes I found in the remoter parts are almost incredible. Within five days of Tibet I found a modern steel truss bridge being erected over the Yellow River, and in Lanchau, in the province of Kansu, where the Viceroy is making a fine boulevard right through the city, I saw electric light and a tramway. But perhaps what struck me most was the fact that all over the country, even in the remotest villages, I found small groups of young men drilling. In some cases there were only ten or 15 men, but it appeared to be part of a concerted plan, of the precise object of which the people themselves seem ignorant. I believe, however, that it is part of a general plan to prepare secretly an enormous Army. One curious thing I noted along the Great Wall was that over a distance of 1,000 miles there is one predominating disease *goitre*, and one predominating bird, the magpie." The explorer enjoyed good health throughout the expedition, except for one period of eight days, when he had to be carried while suffering from fever.

CHINESE POLL TAX IN SIAM ABOLISHED.

A BETTER SYSTEM.

We are glad to be able to announce says the *Bangkok Times* that the Chinese "Pook-Pi" has been abolished. The decree received the royal sanction on the 26th ult.

Under the old system the tax, which was a triennial one, fell to be collected this year, i. e. in the Siamese year 128. The objectionable part of the old system was the compulsion to wear on the wrist a string with a seal, and the decree frankly recognises that this was objectionable. It also points out that, apart from this matter of taxation, the Chinese have been and are treated in Siam as if they were Siamese, not being regarded as foreigners. They have every opportunity of obtaining rank and position in the Government service.

From now the further step will be taken of putting them exactly on an equality with Siamese as regards taxation. The capitation tax they will have to pay is therefore, at its maximum Tcs. 6 each per annum. Each person who pays will receive a receipt, and there will be no more "pook-pi." In places where the tax exacted is less than Tcs. 6, Chinese will of course pay the same amount as the Siamese of that district. In addition there are a good many exemptions mostly the same as apply in the case of Siamese.

The new law will effect a very necessary reform.

PRATAS ISLAND.

Some of the officials of Formosa are quoted by the *Asahi Shimbun* as saying that Pratas Island is practically without an owner, but that if it is to be brought within any jurisdiction, Formosa should be the place chosen. The name Nishizawajima is really of comparatively recent origin and should not be taken as indicating that there is any radical connexion between Nishizawa and the island. The fact is that the first Japanese to visit Pratas was Mr. Mizutani, who is well known for his enterprise in exploiting the guano resources of the South Sea Islands. More than 30 years ago he fitted out a small expedition for the purpose of visiting Pratas Island and for general exploration. He reached Pratas with the greatest difficulty, and he and his party were subjected to such privations that they had almost despaired of surviving when there taken off by an English ship. Subsequently Mr. Mizutani decided to renew his attempt, as his sojourn on the island had shown him that considerable quantities of guano and of phosphates were to be found there. He put up a sum of 400,000 yen for the purpose and employed Nishizawa to engage assistance and organize the expedition. At one time Mizutani had as many as 400 men working on the island, but as the venture did not prove particularly profitable, its dimensions were gradually reduced until only one fourth of that number are now engaged—*Japan Mail*.

COMMERCIAL NOTES.

THE DEPRESSION IN SIAM.

The recent meetings of local companies have borne, only too often, testimony to the depression, remarks the *Bangkok Times*. As compared with a year ago the Dock Co. paid 5 per cent in place of 15; the Siam Steam Packet Co., 8 per cent. in place of 14; the Siam Electricity Co., 12 per cent and a bonus of Tcs. 4 per share, in place of 12 per cent and a bonus of Tcs. 12½ per share; the Siamese Tramway Co., nothing, in place of 2 per cent. Early in January the head of one important house here remarked that the only good thing he could say about 1908 was that it was ended. Unfortunately there are many evidences that go to support the conclusion that the period of depression is not ended. The rice export is not satisfactory in view of the crop, and the import trade is frankly admitted to be in such a condition that all firms are now playing for safety and leaving speculative business alone.

THE CREDIT SYSTEM.

The following is an extract from the annual report of the Yokohama Board of Trade:—"On

the requisition of certain Members engaged in the Import trade, a special meeting of Importers was held in September to consider the feasibility of limiting the application of the principle of unrestricted credit. Mr. Henson, from the Chair, said, so far as the Committee of the Board was concerned, no special action could be taken by them until they had received some ideas from Importers as to the best course to pursue, having regard to the Import trade generally. In the discussion that followed, the meeting generally favoured the formation of a Committee, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That for the general benefit of the Import trade, it is proposed to form a small Committee (with power to add to their number) in order to collect the opinions of foreign Importers in general, with the object of putting such information before the Committee of the Foreign Board of Trade for further consideration and subsequent action." Unfortunately, the labours of the Committee were unproductive of any satisfactory results, the consensus of opinion being that concerted action in the direction desired was impracticable."

Referring to this matter at the annual meeting of members the Chairman (Mr. Bowden) said:—"As far as attaining the actual object aimed at, the result of the Committee's work was unsuccessful, but a large amount of valuable information was obtained, regarding the terms upon which the various Import lines are sold, and equally valuable expressions of opinion as to the terms upon which business should in future be carried on were elicited. Tabulating the latter, one finds with some surprise that there is considerable unanimity of opinion amongst importers as to the terms of sale which should in future apply to the various branches of the Import Trade. Seeing that this unanimity exists, is it not worth while making another effort to come to some arrangement amongst ourselves which will put all Import business upon a safer and sounder basis than it has been in the past, or is at the present? We must, I think, all recognise that a system of credit sales, and of promissory notes, has, in some lines of business, become an established custom; and it is impossible to get back to the good old days when bargain money on the signing of a contract, and cash before delivery of goods, were the general conditions of sale. We must also recognise the fact that the pressure of competition is gradually but surely extending the period of credit given; that goods which were in the past sold for cash are now sold on credit, and that goods which were until comparatively recent times sold on 10, 20, or 30 days' credit, now obtain 30, 45, and 60 days, and perhaps even longer terms. The same causes in other parts of the world have led to the same results. Good times and keen competition lead to an extravagant expansion of the credit system, until every petty trader and dealer expects and obtains exaggerated periods of credit for his purchases. So long as times are booming, all goes well, but the inevitable result of this unhealthy state of affairs follows in due course, and when the bad times come, the weaker houses go to the wall, whilst many of the strongest are shaken to their foundations. A state of affairs such as I have just described was experienced in Australia some years back. Some houses suffered less than others, but the severe strain of the financial crisis was universally felt, and the ultimate outcome of it all was the formation of associations by the various trades and industries to regulate the terms of credit sales upon a fixed and healthy basis. The conditions which have recently prevailed here have been very similar in cause and effect to these, and I do not see, Gentlemen, why similar controlling measures, such as were subsequently adopted in Australia, should not also be successful in Japan. Under such a system those engaged in the different branches of Imports would mutually agree as to the extreme term of credit which could be given for each line, and would bind themselves not to exceed this limit. There would be no dictation as to the terms upon which each individual did his business. Those who preferred to stick to cash sales would be at liberty to do so, whilst those who chose to take the risks of credit could please themselves as to what credit they gave, and could regulate their terms to suit each particular transaction, so long as they

did not exceed the credit limit fixed by the Association. Gentlemen, I can see no good reason why the members of this Board cannot do what has been successfully done elsewhere, and I hope that the question will be taken up again and carried to a satisfactory conclusion, as there can be no doubt as to the necessity of restricting credit within reasonable limits, nor of the immense advantages which would accrue therefrom.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

COAL.

HONGKONG, April, 30th.—The arrivals of coal since the 15th inst amounted to 42,750 tons of Japanese, 1,200 tons Australian, 4,200 Borneo, 4,100 North China and 2,000 Haiphong for Canton. The coal expected is 24,600 tons Japanese, 9,300 tons Hong-yi, 5,000 tons Borneo and 825 Wales. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff... \$22.0 ex-godown, nominal.
Australian... \$12.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump... \$12.00 Nominal.
Miki Lump... \$10.50 to 11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump... \$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened \$8.00 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump... \$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump... \$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, April 29th.—Since the 15th ulto. the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian
Stocks on the 15th April, 1909—	3,706½	2,777	446	877
Apr. 15th Imports per Assaye	30	150	—	15
" 21st " " Kunsang	—	175	225	—
" 23rd " " Yunnan	—	175	—	—
" 23rd " " G. Apoor	—	100	100	—
" 28th " " Delta	95	100	—	35
	3,834½	3,477	781	925
Less Exports to Shanghai	20	305	80	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	157	595	121	45

Estimated Stocks this day... 3,657½ 2,577 580 880

Bengal.—The market has kept fairly steady owing to the rise in native drug, but the volume of business has not been large. Deliveries are on a satisfactory scale. We quote New Patna at \$955.- and New Benares at \$980.-

Malwa.—Old drug continues in demand resulting in a slight improvement in prices. New is difficult of sale. We quote, New, \$1,070/75.-; 3 years, \$1,090/1,100.-; 4½ years, \$1,140/50.-; 6 years, \$1,160/10.-

Persian.—Unchanged.

HONGKONG, April, 30th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,070/1,080 per pic u
Malwa Old	\$1,090/1,100 do.
Malwa Older	\$1,110/1,140 do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,150/1,185 do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,020/1,050 do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850/900 do.
Patna New	\$965 per chest.
Patna Old	\$1,000 do.
Benares New	\$990 do.
Benares Old	\$— do.

YARN.

HONGKONG—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 16th April states:—"The long expected demand has at last made its appearance, and during the past fortnight a comparatively larger business has been done both in goods on the spot and 'to arrive.' Values have appreciate \$1 to \$3 per bale, and the advance would have gone much further, but the rise in exchange discouraged buyers who then withdrew entirely from the market hoping to buy at cheaper prices later on. Importers, however, are quite indifferent, for despite the improvement in remitting rates, prices here ruling are still much below replacing cost. Receipts continue to fall away and it would appear that the stream of shipments is now being directed to Shanghai. Bombay is reported strong with nothing doing

for the China markets; most of the mills having sold well forward, are working off their recent heavy contracts. For the last few days business is at stand-still, but the market closes steady. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 10,173 bales, arrivals amount to 6,574 bales, unsold stock estimated at 5,000, and uncleared yarn in second hands about 21,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—There is no change in the continued quietness of these threads. Japanese Yarn:—Neglected throughout. Raw Cotton:—The market for both Indian and China descriptions is practically closed, receipts are very small and prices more or less nominal. Quotations are Indian \$26 to \$29 and China \$27 to \$31. Exchange on India has continued to advance in sympathy with silver and closes to-day steady at Rs. 135½ for Post and Rs. 136½ for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 88½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 21st instant, viz:—Indian:—The tone of the market has been firmer throughout, but only small settlements are reported; the ideas of both buyers and sellers being too wide apart to lead to any material business. Total sales about 2,000 bales with an estimated unsold and uncleared stock of 38,500 bales. Japanese:—Market firm and prices unchanged. Total sales about 3,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 103½ to 110 for No. 16s. and 11s. 108 to 118 for No. 20s. Local:—Forward sales of about 4,500 bales No. 16s by a Foreign Mill at Tls. 98 to 101 have been reported.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Good Report, dated Shanghai 23rd April, 1909, state:—But for the moderately good clearances this market would be dead, for there is scarcely any enquiry, what there is being at impossibly low prices, either for stock cargo or for forward delivery. There is a certain amount of movement going on all the time, however, a sort of hand to mouth business, with no confidence being shown for the future. The liquidation of old accounts is going on slowly and so long as these old stocks are hanging over the market it is not possible for business to get on to a safe basis. Under these circumstances Importers are not encouraging the natives to enter into forward transactions, especially in face of the heavy supplies coming here from Manchester. It is not very clear who they are coming to, or even if the bulk is for this port or not, but an export to China of 14,000,000 yards of Grey goods and 12,000,000 yards of Bleached goods in the first fortnight of this month is rather appalling, and is certainly sufficient to cause operators to pause. Fortunately the home markets are not offering much inducement to buy further, as on account of the advance in Cotton they are very strong. The news from our dependencies is very meagre, nothing of a very defined nature coming from any one of them. Newchwang seems to be progressing favourably and there is some evidence that fresh buying orders have come down, though the dealers are endeavouring to keep it very quiet. However, certain resales of American goods have leaked out that clearly show that the former buying prices for that market are well maintained, and there was no occasion for the weaker feeling the dealers tried to impart to the market in the meanwhile. Tientsin is quiet, but seems to be steady and the greater volume of business she is doing with this seems to belie the rumours that the credit system by direct Importers there is going strong again. There may be more to say on this subject next week. With regard to the smaller outlets there is nothing particular to say. Weather conditions so far have been very favourable for the crops; the price of Rice is almost normal once more, and the Export trade fostered by the low Exchange is flourishing, all of which would be entirely satisfactory but for the currency question, and the general want of sound business ability amongst the powers that be in the Capital. There is no homogeneity between the central Government and the Provinces, and until that comes about there will not be much chance for reform in any direction in this country. At the regular Auctions light weight Greys, as well as the Continentals, went at easier prices, as did also the 64 and 72 reed White Shirtings, but the heavier goods and better classes of White Shirtings have shown a stronger tendency. T-Cloths were inclined to weakness, while Jeans were steady to firm. Turkey Reds were not consistently weak, some weights showing a slight recovery, but Fast Blacks have not followed the same course as a rule, but in some cases better prices were paid. Woollens at the Ewo sale this morning realised slightly better prices, with the exception of Long Ella.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 30th April:—There are few arrivals the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.50	to	\$4.60
" Round, Good quality ..	4.75	to	4.80
" Long	4.65	to	4.70
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	4.85	to	4.90
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	4.65	to	4.70
" White,	4.85	to	4.90
" Fine Cargo	5.10	to	5.15

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS.

The following trade review of Yokohama for the year 1908 is culled from the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade:—

Raw Cotton.—The falling off is mainly confined to Indian and Chinese Cotton, which may partly be attributed to the large stocks brought over from the previous year and partly to the decrease in the export of Cotton Yarn to China, which made itself particularly felt in the first half of the year. As a whole, the Cotton business has apparently not been profitable in the year under review, neither for importers nor for spinners, the latter experiencing considerable difficulty in making ends meet. Prospects for the future seem to be a little brighter, though there is no definite indication that the present better tone of the market will be maintained. Values have gradually lessened during the year. American Middling, which was quoted at Yen 38.00 at the beginning of the year, receded to about Yen 29.50 to Yen 30.0 per picul during the 1st quarter, until in the second half of December a certain reaction began to set in. Egyptian Cotton has, as usual, followed the American market to some extent, whilst Indian and Chinese Cotton were not so much affected.

Wool.—Imports for the last three years showed a heavy fall which must be accounted for by the diminution in trade with China and the general depression in the home market, and also is due to the heavy stocks held at the beginning of the year. The home market steadily fell in price for the first six months of 1908, but since then there has been a gradual improvement; but prices are still considerably lower than at the beginning of the year. The Japan market holds stocks at the close of the year which were imported when prices were at bottom figures, and the recent recovery in prices at home has not yet been perceptibly noticed here. The year has been full of alarms. Many contracts have not been taken up, credits have had to be extended, and failures have been recorded; and it must be generally said that little confidence has been exhibited between seller and buyer. It has been the custom, brought about by competition, for importers to grant extensive credits to the mills and even to dealers. This year's trade depression has made importers realize the hazardous nature of these long credits, and it is to be hoped that future business will be done on shortened terms.

KEROSENE OIL.—The Kerosene Oil business during 1908 was chiefly remarkable for the rapid vicissitudes through which it passed. The first three months of the year showed remarkably good results for the importers of Oil. The prices were abnormally high, and the quantities sold unusually large. This was due to the fact that a Consumption Tax of 21 sen per case, imposed by the Government, came into force on the 31st March. From that date prices steadily decreased, and the market continued weak until September, when, owing to the improvement in demand, it became somewhat firmer. One of the most important factors in the business for the year was the increase in the production of the Japanese Oil companies. During Sept., Oct., and Nov., the output from the wells of these companies increased considerably, with the result that the imported Oils were severely affected by the unusual quantity of Japanese Kerosene upon the market. Another remarkable feature in the trade for the year was the distinct falling off in actual consumption, owing to the economy necessitated by the poverty of the people. This factor, in conjunction with the increase of the Japanese Oil companies' business and the initiation of the business of the Namboku Petroleum Company, considerably reduced the demand for imported Oil, and it is therefore natural that the year 1908 showed a considerable shrinkage in the total import of Kerosene Oil.

SUGAR.—In 1908 the total volume of business done did not differ to any appreciable extent from that of the previous year, the imports of both Raw and Refined Sugar amounting in both cases to roughly 19½ millions of yen in value. Again Java and other Raws form the principal items on the import list, transactions in the Refined article being once more of minor importance. There seems unfortunately reason to believe that the conditions of the Import Tariff are not always strictly observed by importers, and, as regards the heavy Excise imposed on the article throughout the Empire, recent revelations give colour to the suspicion that care may not have been exercised by the authorities to enforce the payment in full of the impost in Formosa and Japan proper. In the above circumstances, business for the legitimate trader is virtually prohibited for the time being, while lasting injury has been done to an industry, the development of which seemed to promise so favourably until late developments showed the unsound conditions under which the Japanese Sugar refineries were being worked. Until Japan and Formosa are placed upon an equal footing in the matter of taxation and the taxes rigorously and impartially collected, it is to be feared that refining cannot be conducted on sound lines and the prospects of legitimate transactions in imported Sugars are rendered remote.

SHIPPING.—The following table gives the net registered tonnage entering the port of Yokohama during 1908 as compared with 1907, as represented by foreign flags:—

	Tons.—1908.	Tons.—1907.
British	1,368,384	1,313,158
United States	471,424	498,507
German	350,363	374,682
French	151,567	135,899
Dutch	51,306	65,330
Austro-Hungarian ..	43,146	53,736
Danish	20,826	2,987
Russian	10,568	12,908
Norwegian	10,034	29,544
Swedish	6,578	2,180
Belgian	2,903	—
Korean	2,388	—
Chinese	1,002	—

AMOY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Amoy Gazette and Shipping Report, of the 19th April, 1909, publishes the following principal goods passed through the Custom House.

IMPORTS.	Quantity
Cotton Raw, Italian pls.	—
Cotton Raw, Native "	48
Cotton Raw, Yarn "	1,090
Shirtings, Grey pcs.	960
T-Cloths "	1,475
Shirtings, White "	1,355
T Red Shirtings "	720
Drills "	450
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades "	238
Shirtings Dyed "	50
Damasks "	—
Camlets "	91
Lasting "	—
Spanish Stripes yds.	272
Lustres, Figure "	—
Lead, in pigo pls.	—
Tin in slabs "	236
Iron, Nail rod "	24
Quicksilver "	3
Iron, Old "	127
Ironwire "	14
Rice "	7,742
Opium, Patna "	6
Opium, Benares "	125
Opium, Persian "	10
Opium, Malwa "	2
Opium, Szechuan "	46
Opium, Yunnan "	66
Opium, Shansi "	—
Sesamum Seed "	1,444
Sanpanwood "	27
Sandalwood "	42
Rattans "	22
Wheat "	1,808
Flour "	4,163
Beancake "	62,014
Beans and Peas "	48,477
Bicho de Mar "	451
Mats Tea pcs.	—
Oil, Kerosine American .. galls.	—
Oil, Kerosine Ame. in bulk .. "	—
Oil, Kerosine Borneo in bulk .. "	—
Oil, Kerosine Russian "	—
Oil, Kerosine Sumatra "	—
Oil, Kerosine Bulk "	—
Coal "	2,430
Tobacco Leaf pls.	941
Vermicelli "	569

EXPORTS.

	Quantity.
Sugar, White pls.	—
Sugar, Brown "	144
Sugar, Candy "	402
Hemp Bags pcs.	66,950
Hemp Sacking "	6,500
Paper I Quality "	1,975
Paper II Quality "	312
Tobacco, Prepared "	836
Kittysols (umbrellas) pcs.	1,100

EXPORTS:—

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN TRADE.

EXPORTS.

The following trade review of Yokohama for the year 1908 is culled from the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade:—

RAW SILK.—The depression recorded in our last report at the end of December, 1907, consequent upon the financial crisis in the United States of America in the Autumn of that year continued during the first part of 1908. The conditions of the Silk trade in general were very unsatisfactory, and owing to the lack of confidence in the future, and also in consequence of the curtailing of credit accommodation, manufacturers restricted their purchases to their immediate requirements. Heavy failures took place in the trade in America and Europe, which had a still further depressing effect. The unsold stock in Yokohama at the end of December amounted to 23,000 piculs, with prices at Yen 950 for Sinshiu Filatures No. 1. Under the then existing conditions this heavy stock could, of course, not be disposed of without interrupting the downward tendency of prices, and, with spasmodic fluctuations, values receded gradually till the level of Yen 820 for Sinshiu Filatures No. 1/14. Spring Reelings had been reached by the middle of April. These low prices attracted the attention of buyers, a large business ensued, and values began to harden, and by the latter part of the Spring conditions in the consuming centres had materially improved; confidence in the financial world had been restored, and manufacturers began to buy in anticipation of orders for the Autumn season. Large transactions then took place in this market, and prices began to advance until they reached (by the end of June) Yen 945 for Sinshiu Filatures No. 1/14. Available stocks had then decreased to 4,500 piculs, consisting mostly of qualities unsuitable for export. During the latter part of the Spring, weather conditions were very favourable, and, as a larger amount of eggs than in any year before had been laid out for hatching, everything pointed to an abundant yield. These conditions continued during the Summer and Autumn months, and as the Autumn crop exceeded that of the previous year by at least 30 to 40 %, the output was estimated at from 105,000 to 115,000 bales. This estimate was upheld by all European and Japanese Silk firms with the exception of one Japanese exporter, who contested it, and predicted an output of only 80,000 bales. This statement created at that time unnecessary excitement, and its fallacy is now proved by the fact that at the end of December, 1908, over 70,000 bales had been exported to Europe and America. At the end of April enquiries came in from America for forward contracts, but, owing to the low prices then ruling for Raws and the uncertainty of prices for Cocoons, reelers were very reluctant to engage themselves ahead. Altogether, the amount of forward contracts closed this year before the crop had really materialized was far short of last year's figures. In consequence, there was a brisk demand at the opening of the season for new Silk, and the first p reels of Sinshiu Filatures No. 1 fetched Yen 880 to 890. A sharp advance then took place, and the same grades were disposed of up to Yen 945. From then on a steady business has been done both for Europe and America, and it is characteristic that no heavy fluctuations in prices have taken place up to the 30th of December. There is no doubt that occasionally strong efforts were made by native dealers to advance prices, but invariably consumption did not respond and prices had to recede to their former level. Our market had to depend upon consumption during the last six months; speculative elements, which characterised the last two seasons, had more or less disappeared. The Silk Exchange, which up to last year played such an important part in our Silk market, did not

give rise to any serious excitement and the fluctuations were very small. The quality of the crop has been rather good, with the exception of Sinshiu Filatures, which have given rise to serious complaints from the manufacturers at home on account of their irregularity in size. It is evident that reelers in the Sinshiu districts pay more attention to the increase of their output than to the improvement of their quality, and things have gone so far that manufacturers in Europe are beginning to discriminate in favour of the Levant Silks. To show in what disrepute Sinshiu Filatures have fallen we may mention that the difference in price between these and the best class of Kansai Filatures is about Yen 240 per picul. It is to be feared that if the quality of the Sinshiu Filatures does not improve they will still further fall into disrepute. At the end of December the unsold stock in Yokohama amounted to 20,200 piculs.

WASTE SILK.—The year opened with a heavy stock in Yokohama and a poor demand from consuming centres. No interest was taken by Europe in Japanese Waste until the end of February, by which time prices had fallen 20 to 25 per cent. From March to July a steady business was done at gradually declining prices, the season closing with a small stock in Yokohama, but with a larger quantity than usual held up country. The market for new material opened earlier than has been the case during recent years, and by the end of September prices were established marking a small advance. During the last three months of the year the market was brisk, with a constant demand from Europe, and the stock in Yokohama at the end of December was only 6,800 piculs, prices being from 10 to 15 per cent. higher than those ruling in June. A noticeable feature of the present season is the relatively high prices paid for low Kibizzos, both for export and for local consumption. Owing to the large stock carried over from 1907 and steady demand in the autumn, the total shipments during 1908 are the largest on record.

MANUFACTURED SILKS.—The year 1908 has been noticeable for remarkable and dangerous fluctuations in price which have rendered the business particularly hazardous and difficult. From the high and almost unprecedented rates prevailing in January, the market experienced such a set back in the Spring that prices fell fully 25%. The early summer, however, witnessed a strong revival, the market in August showing an advance of over 12% from the débacle in April. During the autumn months, when a better tone was evinced from abroad, Habutai remained quite steady, but in the closing month of the year there was no doubt of weakness with signs of a further relapse. The various depressions which prevailed during the year were rightly attributed to the lack of support which came from United States, hitherto the principal factor in Japanese market, and it is therefore not surprising that the export figures for that country for the year revealed a decline of two million yen, which is a precisely similar decrease noticeable in our last Report when comparing the figures of 1907 with those of 1906. One of the primary causes of his unsatisfactory state of affairs is, without doubt, the steady and healthy growth of home manufactures in the United States, which have of late so developed that tissues are now woven in America which have practically all the characteristics of Japanese Habutai at a much less cost. Another cause for the falling off in the export to America is probably the inability of buyers to find sufficient quantities of the best goods to satisfy their enquiries, a cause which should be in the power of the producers to remedy. Taking the year as a whole, a slightly larger number of pieces have been exported than in the previous year, though, owing to the market decline, there is a depreciation in value of roughly Yen 14 million. In addition to the United States previously referred to, the Lyons market has also been of less support, the figures for that centre of the European Silk industry marking a decline of nearly one million yen. Whilst British India, inclusive of Ceylon and Germany, have practically maintained their trade, Great Britain and Australia have made a smart advance, the former exceeding the previous year's purchases by a million and a quarter yen.

JAPANESE COTTON YARNS.—There was a considerable decrease in the export trade for 1908 as compared with the last two years. China is the principal consumer, and the fall in silver is responsible to a very large extent for the serious reduction in the export of this staple. The home demand which absorbs approximately three quarters of the output has been well maintained.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Palma*, sailed on the 23rd April, 1909:—For Hamburg—500 bales tea, & 30 cases bristles. For Amsterdam—150 bales tea. For Manchester—130 bales waste silk. For Marseilles—7 bales human hair. For Antwerp—20 bales feathers. For London—150 bales waste silk, 150 rolls matting, 796 cases fire crackers, 50 bales feathers, 20 cases vermilion, 3 bales human hair, 4 bales bamboo traps, 2 cases silk, 2 cases motor pump & 8 cases p. effects.

Per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on 27th April, 1909:—For Lyons—495 bales raw silk. For Marseilles—238 bales raw silk. For St. Charles—20 bales raw silk. For St. Etienne—30 bales raw silk. For Havre—69 packages cases 17 cases hats, and 19 packages private effects. For Reunion—17 packages provisions. For Tamatave—5 cases tea. For Marseilles—8 cases merchandise, 87 packages human hair, 9 cases silk goods, 25 bales waste silk, 7 cases embroideries and 4 cases hats. For London—1 case embroidery and 1 case hats.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 30th April:—There is no market. The prices are the same.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 30th April, 1909.—A brisk demand for most stocks has ruled in our market during the past week, and a fairly good business has resulted. Rates in many cases have further appreciated, the tendency at the close being towards further firmness. Bar Silver in London has improved to 243d and sterling T. T. to 1/9 1/4. The T. T. rate on Shanghai is quoted at 74 1/2, and the Bank's buying rate for 3ds. bills at 75 1/4. The rate in Shanghai for 3ds. bills on this is 74 1/2.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have been in good demand, and sales have been booked at from \$940 to \$950. At the close a few shares are obtainable at the latter rate. London is unchanged at £89 10s. Nationals have buyers at \$51 but are without business.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have improved considerably and sales up to \$805 are reported, market closing with buyers at the rate. Cantons have again been done at \$187 1/2 and more shares can be placed. There are buyers of China Traders, North Chinas and Yangszees at quotations, but no local transactions are reported.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at \$335, and there are buyers now at \$337 1/2 but supplies are not available under \$340. Chinas are firm with buyers at \$106.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been sold at \$30 1/2 and more shares are wanted. Indos have improved to \$80 for the combined preferred and deferred issues, and Shell Transports to 58/6. China and Manila are easier with sellers at \$12 and Douglases at \$36. Star Ferries (old) have been booked, and are in further request at \$25.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars also Luxons have been neglected during the interval, and there are no sales to report. Perak Sugars in the North have jumped to Tls. 16 1/2 with buyers.

MINING.—Raubas are obtainable at \$8. Chinese Engineerings are wanted at Tls. 18, and Charbonnages at \$625.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are weak with sellers at \$79. There are buyers of New Amoy Docks at \$9 1/2, and of Shanghai Docks at Tls. 87. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have hardened, and after sales at \$53 and \$54 are now enquired for at \$55. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are easier with sellers in the North at Tls. 167 1/2.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands under a demand from the North have improved to \$99 with buyers, but no sales are reported. Shanghai Lands have been sold to the North at Tls. 118 and Tls. 117 1/2, market closing with sellers at the higher rate. West Points continue in request at \$44 and Kowloon Lands would probably also find buyers at \$30. Humphreys Estates have improved to \$9 with sales and further buyers. Hongkong Hotels continue in request at \$85.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are easier with sellers in the North at Tls. 122 and Soychees at Tls. 403. Internationals are quoted at Tls. 91, and Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 112, sales of Hongkong have been effected locally at \$84.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneo's after sales at \$11.30 and \$1 1/2 can now be placed at \$12. Cements have been done at \$3.80 and \$3.9 and more shares are to be had at the higher rate. Dairy Farms are procurable at \$17. China Providents at \$9 1/2 and South China Morning Posts at \$24. There are buyers of B.I.'s Asbestos at \$10 1/2, Electrics at \$18 1/2, and Union Water Boats at 10. Ices have been booked at the reduced rate of \$150.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra, Ltd.	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$950, sellers \$9.10
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10 1/2, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12, buyers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$4 1/2
China Provident	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 122, sellers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$8 1/2 sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 91
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 10	Tls. 112
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 403
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$17, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	55, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$79 sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$4 1/2	\$9 1/2, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 87
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 167 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$8.90, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$1	\$18 1/2, x.d., buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co....	\$50	\$85, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$155, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$24
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$187 1/2, sales & buy
China Fire	\$20	\$106, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$85 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$337 1/2, buyers
North China	\$5	Tls. 105, buyers
Union	\$100	\$805, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$202 1/2, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$99, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 118, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$44, buyers
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fs. 250	\$625, buyers
Raubs	18/10d.	\$8, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co., Ltd....	\$1	\$2
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$137 1/2, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$16, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$12, sellers
Douglas Steamship...	\$50	\$36, sellers
H., Canton & N.	\$15	\$30 1/2, sales & buy.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$51, } L'don 29, } \$27.26
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$58/6, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sales & buyers
South China M. Post...	\$5	\$15
Steam Laundry Co.....	\$25	\$24, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$12, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$24, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$3 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9, sales
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$100	\$140
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12 1/2
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$230
	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

24th April, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$990, sales
National of China...	26	\$50
Russo-Chinese	R187 1/2	Tls. 175
	T125	
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$825, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 105
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$225, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$337 1/2, sales
China Fire.....	\$20	\$107, sales
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. }		Tls. 54
{ def. }		
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	\$2.14.6
& Trading { pref. }	10	\$9.10.0
S'hai Tug & { ord. }		Tls. 51, sales
Lighter ... { pref. }	T50	Tls. 53, sales
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48
Kochien Transport-		
ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 45, sales
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 80
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 167, sales
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217 1/2
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 132 1/2, buyers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$112 1/2, buyers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	21	\$8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 18, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 117, sales
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10 1/2
Wei-hai-wei	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 101, sales
Cotton:—		
Ewo.....	T50	Tls. 123, sales
International	T75	Tls. 92, sales
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 111, buyers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 410, sellers
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 115, sellers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 40, buyers
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill...	T50	Tls. 39, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 45, sales
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$10, sales
Maatschappij, &c.,		
in Langkat.....	Gs. 100	Tls. 1,035, sales
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 132 1/2, buyers
S'hai Waterworks...	\$20	Tls. 415, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$80, sellers
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	50	Tls. 20, sales
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 102, sales
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 145, buyers
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	T10	Tls. 10 1/2, sales
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric		
Construction.....	\$10	\$87.6, sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$23, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$9
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$18 1/2, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$45, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$27, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$20 1/2, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50.00	Tls. 90, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152 1/2, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$35, sales
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 52, buyers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 63, buyers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sales
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository	T50	Tls. 25
Printing Co.....	T50	Tls. 50

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s in their Share Report for the Week ending April 22nd, state:— We have to report a very large business for the week under review, and this more specially in Langkat shares. Telegraphic news reached Shanghai of the opening of Hole No. 94, which showed results in the supply of Oil far exceeding anticipations. The Well giving about 80,000 gallons per diem. Undoubtedly this information leaked out and resulted in heavy buying by the privileged quarters at low rates. The telegram was dated April 10, and the Directors considered it well to advise shareholders of the existence of this wire by circular dated 17th, which reached the majority of shareholders only on April 19. Below we give the quotations day by day, which must prove interesting to our readers. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. We have to report an advance on these shares from previous quotations \$960 to 990, at which rate sales have been effected. Marine & Fire Insurance.—Yangtze are wanted at \$225. North-Chinas at Tls. 105 nominal, and Unions are required for at quotation. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. The market opened on the 15th with sales at Tls. 56 and Tls. 56 1/2 for June. Shares were readily placed at 54 for cash, and again at 56 for June. On the 17th Tls. 55/54 June was done and on the 20th Tls. 51 1/2 June. At closing cash shares have been placed at 54 nominal and 56 sales June. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 50 1/2 and 5, and 53 1/2 June (Ordinary), and Tls. 53 for cash preference. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. Shares have been placed at Tls. 83 for cash, and 82 1/2, and 82 for June. The Market closes nominal at Tls. 80 cash and sales at 82 for June. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. Business has been done at Tls. 166, 166 1/2, 167 1/2 and 170 June. On the 20th the market eased with sales at Tls. 169 June. At closing the rates are 167 sales for cash and 169 sales June. Sugars.—Perak Sugars are wanted at Tls. 132 1/2. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 117, the market closes steady at this rate. Anglo-French Lands have been placed at Tls. 101. Industrial.—Cotton Stocks Ewos have been placed at Tls. 116, 117, 117 1/2, 120, 122, 124, and 125 June with sales for cash at 123. The market closes steady at these rates. Laou Kung Mows have been placed at Tls. 110 for cash, 114, 114 1/2 and 115 for June. International Cottons have been placed at Tls. 92 cash and Tls. 94 June. Soy Chees are offering at Tls. 410. Shanghai Pulp & Paper Co. Shares have been placed at Tls. 45. Tebongs at Tls. 9-10. Buyers at the latter rate. Senawangs at Tls. 140; buyers, now offer Tls. 150 for shares. Shanghai Waterworks have been placed at Tls. 415. Shanghai Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 135, 127 1/2, 130 and 135 June. At closing shares are wanted at this rate. Maatschappij &c. in Langkat. The market opened on the 15th with sales for cash at Tls. 835, 850, 855, 857 1/2, 860, 862 1/2, 865 June. On the 16th at 885, 890, 900 cash, and 925-930 June. On the 17th at 920, 940, cash, and 925, 940, 950, 952 1/2, 960, 975 and 970 June. On the 19th at 1,050, 1,060, 1,075, 1,100, 1,090, and 1,100, June, and at 1,095, 1,075 for cash. On the 20th at 1,110, 1,050, 1,045 and 1,050 June. On the 21st at 1,090, 1,095, 1,100, 1,110, 1,080 and 1,075 June. At closing the market is easier again and shares have been done to-day at 1,060 and 1,050 for June. Miscellaneous.—Moutries have been placed at \$45. Astor House shares at \$40 1/2, and are offering. Loans & Debentures.—Shanghai Gas 6% debentures have been placed at Tls. 103, and are wanted at this rate. Holders hold for Tls. 104. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Debs. A small lot changed hands at 102, at which rate there are buyers.

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 14th April.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1.50 cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.— HONGKONG, April 30th.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/4
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	228
Credits 4 months' sight	232
ON GERMANY.—On demand	185 1/2
ON N. W. YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	44 1/4
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/4
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	135 1/4
Bank, on demand	136 1/4
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	135 1/4
Bank on demand	136 1/4
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74 1/4
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/4
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	88 1/4
ON MANILA.—On demand	89 1/4
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	78
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	108 1/4
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	10 1/4 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	10 1/4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	83 1/4
SYMBOLS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.90
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$57.20
BAR SILVER per oz	24 1/4

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—Business up North continues brisk, but there is little doing down South. A large number of steamers have found profitable employment in the Yangtze, and more tonnage is wanted. From Saigon, there is little doing. To Hongkong, 13 cents last; to Philippines, 25/30 cents according to quantity; to Singapore, 16 cents. From Newchwang to Canton, fair inquiry, 32 cents being last rate paid. Coal freights continue firm. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton offering; Canton, \$2.75; Singapore, \$2.75. From Haiphong to Canton, \$1.90; Swatow, \$1.90. From Hongkong to Canton, \$1.60; Canton, \$1.65 last; Amoy, \$1.80; Shanghai, \$2.00. From Fulo Laut to Singapore, \$2.25. Time charters:—Several Norwegian steamers have been fixed in the North at good rates. The Amigo is chartered for cattle trade, delivery in Manila.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April.— ARRIVALS.	
23, Cheongshing, Br. str., from Tientsin.	
24, Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.	
24, Knight Errant, British str., from Cardiff.	
24, Hsing Shun, Chinese str., from Kebau.	
24, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Swatow.	
24, Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.	
24, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.	
24, Nicomedia, German str., from Shanghai.	
24, Pechaburi, German str., from Bangkok.	
24, Selja, Norwegian str., from Portland.	
24, Shantung, British str., from Hongay.	
24, Somali, British str., from London.	
24, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.	
24, Yotorofu Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.	
25, Agamemnon, British str., from Liverpool.	
25, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
25, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.	
25, Germania, German str., from Wuhu.	
25, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.	
25, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.	
25, Kwangse, British str., from Weihaiwei.	
25, Liangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.	
25, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.	
25, Oopack, British str., from Singapore.	
25, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.	
25, Taiyuen, British str., from Australia.	
26, Ascania, German str., from Chinkiang.	
26, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.	
26, Denbigh Hall, Br. str., from New York.	
26, Earstern, British str., from Kobe.	
26, Ernest Simons, French str., from S'hai.	
26, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.	
26, Fukura Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
26, Hong Wan I, Br. str., from Rangoon.	
26, Inveric, British str., from Seattle.	
26, Kanagawa M., Jap. str., from Shanghai.	
26, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	
26, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.	
26, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.	
26, Rubi, British str., from Manila.	
26, Soshu M., Jap. str., from Anping.	
27, Austria, Austrian str., from Shanghai.	

27, Canton, Swedish str., from Gothenburg.	
27, Chunsang, British str., from Wakamatsu.	
27, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.	
27, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.	
27, Johanne, German str., from Saigon.	
27, Mathilde, German str., from Chinkiang.	
27, Moyori Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.	
27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
28, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.	
28, Bangkok, German str., from Bangkok.	
28, Benalda, British str., from Moji.	
28, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., from Singapore.	
28, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.	
28, Delta, British str., from London.	
28, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.	
28, G. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.	
28, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.	
28, Helene, German str., from Swatow.	
28, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
28, Luchow, British str., from Newchwang.	
28, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.	
28, Yunnan, French str., from Anvers.	
29, Paoting, British str., from Weihaiwei.	

April.— DEPARTURES.

24, ymeric, British str., for Seattle.	
24, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.	
24, Hangsang, Br. str., for Shanghai.	
24, Helene, German str., for Swatow.	
24, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.	
24, Kotohira Maru, Jap. str. for Moji.	
24, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
24, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.	
24, Rajaburi, German str., for Swatow.	
24, Sungkiang, British str., for Hoilo.	
24, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.	
24, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.	
25, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., Hoihow.	
25, Chenan, British str., Shanghai.	
25, Childar, Norwegian str., for watow.	
25, Chipshing, British str., for Tientsin.	
25, Haimun, British str., for watow.	
25, Somali, British str., for Shanghai.	
26, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.	
27, Agamemnon, British str., for Shanghai.	
27, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.	
27, Arabia, German str., for Moji.	
27, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.	
27, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.	
27, Fooksang, British str., for Singapore.	
27, Gryfevale, British str., for Vladivostock.	
27, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.	
27, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.	
27, Knight Errant, British str., for Kobe.	
27, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
27, Nicomedia, German str., for Singapore.	
27, Onsang, British str., for Hongay.	
27, Oopack, British str., for Shanghai.	
27, S. Monarch, Br. str., for Shanghai.	
27, Simongan, Dutch str., for Amoy.	
27, Taiwan, British str., for hefoo.	
27, Taming, British str., for Manila.	
28, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
28, Canton, Swedish str., for Shanghai.	
28, Eastern, British str., for Sydney.	
28, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.	
28, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.	
28, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.	
28, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.	
28, Kiang Ping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.	
28, Yunnan, French str., for Yokohama.	
29, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.	
29, Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.	
29, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.	
29, Inveric, British str., for Calcutta.	
29, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.	
29, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.	
29, Nanshan, British str., for Amoy.	
29, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.	
29, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.	
29, Selja, Norwegian str., for Manila.	
29, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.	
29, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
29, Yingchow, British str., for Shanghai.	

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Bangkok, from Bangkok, Mr Frank Powell.	
Per Haimun, from Swatow, Messrs Curles and H. R. Honard.	
Per Austria, from Shanghai, Mr Count Ostwsky and family.	
Per Haiching, from Coast Ports, Admiral and Mrs Hewitt, and Mr Hynes.	
Per Loongsang, from Manila, Capt. and Mrs Price, daughter and 2 infants, Messrs C. A. Neff, H. A. Neff, O. E. Parris, J. Arreglado and F. Milner.	

Per Taiyuan, from Melbourne, &c., Misses Elliott, Nesbitt, Cornish, White, Thompson and Hannam, Capt. Sedly Messrs Hermeda, Ross, Gelpin and Firma.

Per Haiyang, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Fauque, Master & Miss Fauque, Mrs Finlapon, Mrs Kinghorn, Miss Brocket, Revs. Max Gowan and Fame, Messrs McM. Tyre, Parkins and Barton.

Per Gregory Apcar, from Calcutta, &c., Mr and Mrs Bell, Mr and Mrs Marton & 2 children, Mr and Mrs C. Y. Heng, Mr and Mrs L. C. Yang & child, Mrs Belson, Misses Orr, Hoegert and Plumb, Messrs Dannenberg, Armstead, Pretion and Bruce.

Per Taming, from Manila, Mrs Hurley, Mrs de Haa, Mrs E. L. Bradford, Misses Kunpfer and H. Gordon, Colonel B. Rawle, Messrs C. Roebelen, M. Geismann, R. Trace, Helen Trace, Norine Trace, Ursula Torres, R. C. Hurley, J. Masvollet, J. A. Webb, Elba M. Webb, Hulon, Webb, J. de Haa, F. J. Y. Jorje, Guy Roullet, E. Ross and E. P. Osborne.

Per Delta, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs H. G. Morris, Mr and Mrs H. L. Fletcher, Misses Grimshaw and Davis, Messrs E. Potter, A. G. Morris and J. Deveney; from Marseilles, Mr Marcus Slade; from Bombay, Mr and Mrs P. B. Shroff, Lt.-Col. Baker, Capt. E. C. Tylden Patterson, Count Schwerinsburg, Messrs K. Kodama, R. J. Webster, E. R. Compton and F. A. Baker; from Penang, Mr A. M. Taylor; from Singapore, Misses Hay, Kelso King and R. Nanton, Col. H. C. Nanton, Messrs E. Smith, A. P. de Carmo, G. A. dos Santos, A. d'Almada, H. Wilkins, Gomes and Castilho; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs and Miss Coke, Mrs Cameron and child, Messrs C. H. Godfrey, H. Martin and J. Mathews; from Aden, Mr A. Zampens; from Penang, Mrs I. Findlay and amah, and Mrs Hilton's child; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs W. B. Clayton, infant and amah, Mr and Mrs Dallas, Mr and Mrs Pearce and infant, Mr and Mrs Stevenson, Mr and Mrs Riley, Misses Dalton, Rayner and Lord, Messrs W. G. Symmon, Bury, Roberts, Alves, Lopes, Morgan and Barham; for Yokohama, from London, Misses L. Spence and Nield, Messrs H. J. F. Uldman and W. J. Spack; from Marseilles, Mr F. W. Franks; from Port Said, Capt. G. M. Molloy and Christodanlo; from Singapore, Miss M. Hardy, and Mr Hayes.

DEPARTED.

Per Eastern, for Port Darwin, &c., Mr and Mrs Warren, Mr and Mrs Warwick, Mrs and Misses Pearce, Mrs D. Cox and child, Mrs Wakeford Cox and child, Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Nelson and child, Mrs Niedhart, Mrs Trickett, Misses Cowlishaw, Cox (2), Gebhardt, A. Boeke, and V. Stanford, Colonel E. W. Gilbert, Master P. Trickett, Messrs S. W. Bacon, J. E. Bowron, Wakeford Cox, C. B. Hannah, Hawker, A. Martin, Robert Mitchell and L. Ramaciotti.

Per Ernest Simons, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Mrs Lagnisse, Mr and Mrs Vesto, Mr and Mrs Stroff, Mrs Guirant, Mr & Mrs Guirant, Mrs Christ, Mrs Marty, Mrs Luyx, Mrs L. Rose, Rev. P. Boucheron, Messrs Flayelle, Nerzelim, Gormt, Hero Hiyichi, Champranis, A. Guirax, A. Flayelle, Le Meur, Lorrain, Brunn, de Sernay, Bransui, Garym, S. Germimi, Ba, Le Van Cam, Masin, Berthoz, W. Cox, Ehrber, I. Levy, G. G. Cronin, F. C. Fisher, W. H. Keer, Andre Meurer, Fauque, (2), J. W. Graham, R. D. McDonald and J. Maslovot.

Per Oceanien, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs Geo. Taylor, Mr and Mrs Jordan, Mr and Mrs C. E. Hill, Mr & Mrs Georges de Maranda, Mr and Mrs J. R. Hopin, Dr. and Mrs Vassal, Mrs Nogue, Mrs Hilani, Mrs Chan, His Lordship Lavest, Rev. P. Marie, Messrs Nogue, Jehn Shaw, Colisti, R. P. Busch, J. Israel, B. Margorolski, Bougeat, Cornie, Capernox, A. Druse Lafemen, Carmadan, W. Hereau, A. M. Spencer, Darmacker, G. Hobbs, E. J. Natham, W. Coates, Chevalier, Buose, J. E. Gale, A. Noel, F. Gei, A. Ramella, Pasquet, J. W. C. Bonnar, W. H. Wickham, W. J. Tutecher, L. Rouen, G. P. Ross, C. Lesita, A. O. D. Gourdin, B. Madhardes, Coleman, M. Geismann, Jorge Cheong, Juan Serma and Salvador Millet.

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